

# Disability NOW

£1.20 OCTOBER 1995

The award  
winning  
newspaper  
for everyone  
with an interest  
in disability

## COMMUNITY CARE

The good, the bad  
and how to fight

14

## FASHION

High-street trends  
for fifty somethings

20

## FESTIVAL

Tartan arts, and  
others, at Edinburgh

22

## PROFILE

Meet the presenter  
of *Disability Today*

27

## CLASSIFIED

Jobs, homes,  
bargains, breaks

36



No cash for Karis: five-year-old Karis Lane is being denied the physiotherapy she needs. Full story below.

KAREN LANE

## PACT under fire

The Government's Placing, Assessment and Counselling service (PACT) is under fire for refusing equipment to a woman who is blind and has cerebral palsy and for taking six months to supply equipment to a woman who is hearing impaired.

At the same time, the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) says Access to Work (the scheme under which PACT operates) is over budget by £2 million, and is worried the Government may try to force employers to make compulsory contributions.

It is launching a campaign in October to highlight these fears.

DN agony aunt Lin Berwick was turned down on 31 August for a computer and tape recorder worth £3,000 to help her study a full-time degree course.

PACT then told her that she could have her existing equipment, worth £18,000, taken away because by doing a full-time course she was "disemploying" herself. Worried that she might lose her equipment, Lin decided to do the course

part-time and bought the computer herself.

"The wider implication is that any disabled person who has got machinery under Access to Work cannot go into education to get a higher qualification," she said.

However, Paul Kaczmarek of the Employment Service, the policy branch of PACT, said: "If there is no requirement in the job to do the course, then Access to Work does not apply."

Joe Korner, RNIB senior communications officer, said it sounded as if PACT was not being sensitive to Lin's needs.

"Access to Work is over budget, which may explain why they are becoming more stringent.

"If the budget isn't increased, there will be less to go around for everybody. Any plan to force

employers to make compulsory contributions would be a 'tax on good practice', he added.

Lin has written to her local Tory MP Robin Squire and Education Secretary Gillian Shephard.

Meanwhile, when Teresa Waldron, 25, who is hearing impaired, was offered a full-time

*Continued on page 2*

**There's still time to enter your nominations for the AccessAbility Awards. Forms are available in all branches of Sainsbury – or from DN – and the deadline is now 31 October.**

## Care is 'chaotic'

Three influential bodies slammed the "chaotic" state and "diminishing resources" of UK community care in September.

The National Consumer Council in its report *Charging Consumers for Social Services*\* says charging methods for home helps, day-centre cares and meals-on-wheels are "chaotic" and differ widely.

Authorities need more guidance from Government to ensure that policies are less confused, it says.

The Association of County Councils (ACC) and Association of Metropolitan Authorities, in a joint report *Who Gets Community Care?*, say community care is being hampered by a lack of resources.

Councils are rationing help and some people are being turned away, it concludes.

## No money for physio

A five-year-old girl with cerebral palsy is being denied physiotherapy because her health authority says it does not have enough money.

Karis Lane goes to Chads-grove School for the Physically Handicapped in Bromsgrove, Worcester. Her mother, Karen, says the school cannot provide Karis with the level of physiotherapy and occupational therapy (OT) she needs.

The school can only provide 14 and a half hours of OT a week for more than 100 children and two 30-minute physiotherapy sessions a week.

Mrs Lane argues that Karis needs daily physiotherapy and three OT sessions a week.

"It is appalling that that is the maximum available. I am exceedingly angry and frustrated," she said.

North Worcester Health Authority has assessed the level of therapy that Karis needs and

agrees with Mrs Lane's view. But it says it is unable to fund any more therapy because of a lack of resources.

Chief executive Jim Bartlett said: "She is receiving the maximum of any child at that school.

"The resources are not as anyone would wish. We have to choose between priorities."

North Worcester was not at the bottom of the league of providing such services, he added. It was trying to improve matters, but, he admitted, this would not help Karis in the short term.

Mrs Lane has complained to the authority and to local Tory MP Roy Thomason, who is taking up her case and has written to the local ombudsman.

She is also trying to negotiate a package of care that would enable Karis to go to Ingfield Manor School in West Sussex, a Scope school that would be able to provide a more intensive level of care.

**The Transmaster**  
The transfer chair with powered height adjustment

**The new approach to patient handling**

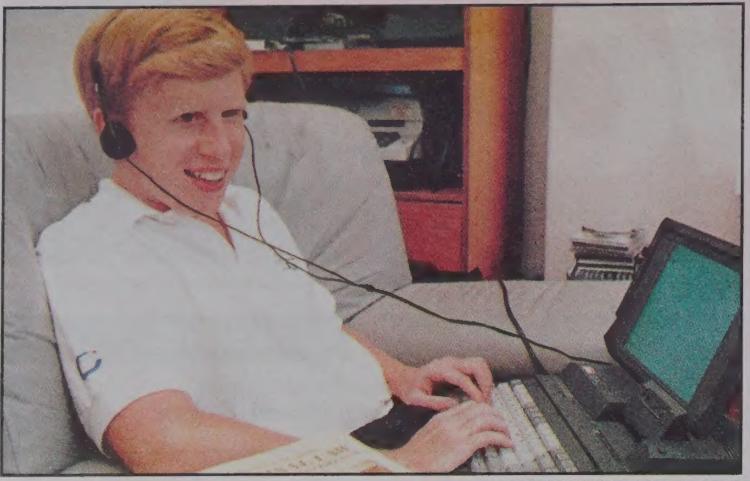
- Efficient and easy to use
- Safe and secure
- Comfortable & dignified
- No slings required
- Optional extras to suit most requirements
- Value for money

For more information call 01623 754047

Smith & Nephew Homecraft Limited  
Sidings Road  
Lowmoor Road Industrial Estate  
Kirkby-in-Ashfield  
Nottingham NG17 7JJ  
Telephone: 01623 754047

**Smith+Nephew**  
Leadership in Worldwide Healthcare

*Continued on page 2*



REED NORTHERN NEWSPAPERS

## Lee's legal triumph

A blind student has passed the Inns of Court training course for the first time since the law school was set up in the last century.

Lee Blakey, 22, has been visually impaired since he was one, with sight in one eye. He lost the sight in his other eye two weeks before the start of the final year of his law degree at the University of Central Lancashire.

Lee Blakey: learnt judgements

He felt he did not have time to learn braille, and spent months learning legal judgements and precedents by heart to prepare for his oral exams. Other students simply referred to notes.

"I hope this will act as a spur to other blind or partially sighted people," he said.

He qualified as a barrister in August.

**PACT under fire**  
Continued from page 1

post at a law centre in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, she says PACT took six months to supply her with a telephone system.

PACT was unhelpful, she says, leaving it to her and her employer to get three quotes because the law centre was contributing to the cost of equipment.

During an assessment for some radio equipment (which arrived within three days), Teresa says one officer turned his head away and muttered something. When she asked him what he had said, she alleges he told her he was testing to see if she really needed it.

PACT confirmed the telephone system took a long time to arrive. There were delivery delays. But PACT manager for Derbyshire Roy Darlington denies Teresa's radio assessment allegations.

### Care is 'chaotic'

Continued from page 1

John Bury, chairman of the ACC Social Services Committee, has written to Health Minister John Bowis calling for more money. Local authorities face a shortfall of £242 million in 1996/97, he said.

• £11.50, tel: 0171-730 3469.

\* £10, LGMB Publications, tel:

(01582) 451166.

Community care probe, p14-16.

## Disability NOW

**Published by**  
Scope, 12 Park Crescent  
London W1N 4EQ

**Editorial:** 0171-636 5020  
**Fax:** 0171-436 4582  
**Subscriptions:** 0171-383 4575

**Minicom:** 0171-436 9914

**Editor** Mary Wilkinson

**Assistant Editor** Nic Paton

**Reporter** Rod Hermeston

**Editorial/Production** Alison Miller

**Editorial Assistant** Hannah Crabtree

**Subscriptions** Karen Bresloff

**Manager** Helen Crow

**Special Projects** Gayle Mooney

**Advertising** Richard Gresham, Kingslea Press Ltd, 12 Dock Offices, Surrey Quays Road, London SE16 2XU

**Tel:** 0171-252 1362

**Typesetting bureau** Banbury Graphics Ltd, Suite 10, Borough House, Marlborough Road, Banbury, Oxon OX16 8TH

**Tel:** (01295) 272722

**Printed by** Cherwell Valley

Lithographic Printers, Banbury, Oxon and

Challenge Print Management

**Tel:** (01604) 787633

**ISSN** 0958-4676

The views expressed in

Disability Now are not

necessarily those of Scope.

Copyright ©1995 Scope.



**Sainsbury's stand**

Sainsbury has invested £400,000 in a nationwide disability awareness campaign to improve its services and facilities for disabled customers. It precedes the Disability Discrimination Act expected in November.

6,000 staff at 365 supermarkets are now wearing a "helping hands" badge showing they have been trained to give practical assistance. 400 volunteer staff have taken a basic sign language course funded by Sainsbury.

By the year end there will be tactile signs in all toilet and telephone facilities, talking scales for weighing produce and in some stores large print recipe leaflets. Other facilities include wheelchair accessible toilets and checkout aisles, minicom systems and induction loops, a portable cheque writing plate for wheelchair users and reserved parking.

**Sex scandal**

Boys as young as eight at a special school in Rochdale, Lancashire were made to perform sexual acts and subjected to a reign of violence and coercion, it was revealed in September. Boys at Knowl View Special School were made to perform sexual acts in public lavatories and were prostituted to known sex offenders, secret council documents showed. The school closed nine months ago.

Meanwhile, the Department of Health has called for an inquiry into allegations that children with learning disabilities were bound and tied to beds at a council-run home in Bedlington, Newcastle upon Tyne.

**Workers rapped**

Two social workers who tried to remove a severely disabled woman from her carer of 12 years have been censured by a local government ombudsman in Lewisham, south London. The woman found the events "very disturbing and frightening", said the ombudsman, who ordered Lewisham council to pay £3,000 compensation. She has remained with her carer.

**Child carers**

As many as 40,000 children, some of them as young as three, are young carers, says a report by The Children's Society. *Couldn't Care More\** found that many suffered anxiety, stress and depression as a result of caring.

\* £6.95, Publications Department, The Children's Society, tel: 0171-837 4299.

# School battles

An 11-year-old girl has failed in her battle to have a lift installed at her local primary school that would have enabled her to attend all her lessons.

Molly McIntyre lost her case when the High Court ruled that Lambeth Council did not need to make the alterations at Sudborne Primary school. The Court of Appeal later refused to hear an appeal (DN June). The case is now going to the European Court of Human Rights.

"It is a great pity, since this issue needs to be resolved by the courts or Government," said Jack Rabinowicz, the solicitor representing Molly. "Children who should be allowed in ordinary schools cannot get access."

Sudborne is one of seven schools in Lambeth that were part of a project called Disabilities Access in Primary Schools. Molly's mother, Lesley, thought that meant necessary alterations would be made.

She has kept Molly at the school, but is dreading having to find her a secondary school.

Meanwhile, Jason Maxted, 15, and Mark White, 13, have been told they cannot attend St Bede's Roman Catholic school in Bradford because they are wheelchair users.

They are now both at Beckfoot Grammar School in Bingley, a mixed-religion school. The nearest adapted Catholic school is 12 miles away in Halifax.

Jason, previously a pupil at St Bede's, was told he could not



Jason Maxted outside St Bede's Roman Catholic School, Bradford: he was told could not return because he was a wheelchair user

DON MCPHEE

return after a blood clot on his spine left him using a wheelchair.

"Jason wants to be a lawyer. The disappointing thing is that he's had to change some of his options because Beckfoot do not do the same curriculum as St Bede's," said his father Dave.

The family are angry at the education authority's decision to send Jason to Beckfoot, but do not want to disrupt his education any further. Christine White, Mark's mother, said her son was settling in at Beckfoot but missed his old friends.

Peter Neafsey, director of schools for the diocese, said the cost of installing lifts was the main problem.

The diocese estimated the cost of all alterations would be £500,000.

Cardinal Heenan High School in Leeds was the priority and Bradford could have a long wait, he said.

"We know of 17 young people in Leeds primary schools who won't be able to move to a Catholic secondary school unless we convert one."

## Water meter victory

A disabled woman has won the right to have her needs taken into account when paying her water bill.

Jackie Shenton, who has multiple sclerosis, had refused to move to an adapted house in Leicester because it had a water meter. She argued that her heavy water use as a disabled person, along with the water use of her three children, would mean that her bill would soar from £186 to £800 a year.

Severn Trent water company had refused to make an exception, arguing that Government rules made it impossible to offer special discounts to any customers.

But the company has now agreed to take Mrs Shenton's "social needs" into account in future bills.

In return, the family agreed to pay £5 a week for water, £1 a week more than before.

## Bradshaw move

Stephen Bradshaw stood down as chief executive of the Spinal Injuries Association in July.

The move is part of general restructuring, with Mr Bradshaw becoming director of external affairs. His replacement is expected to be chosen in October. "We do not exclude the possibility that the new one will not be disabled," said Mr Bradshaw.

## LEAMAN BROTHERS

present

### The NEW NISSAN SERENADE



From the outside the SERENADE is no bigger than a large car, but has the capability to carry with ease five passengers plus a wheelchair or four passengers plus two wheelchairs. With an economical 2.3 litre diesel engine, power steering and excellent visibility the SERENADE is as easy as a car to drive. Wheelchair access by either folding ramp or tailift from rear, with two sliding side doors as standard. Luxury trim, tinted side windows, and a host of extras available for added comfort and ease of use.

The ultimate wheelchair accessible vehicle.

Prices start at £13,413 (Exc VAT & RFL).

For further information on the NEW Nissan Vanette based SERENADE contact:



**LEAMAN BROTHERS**

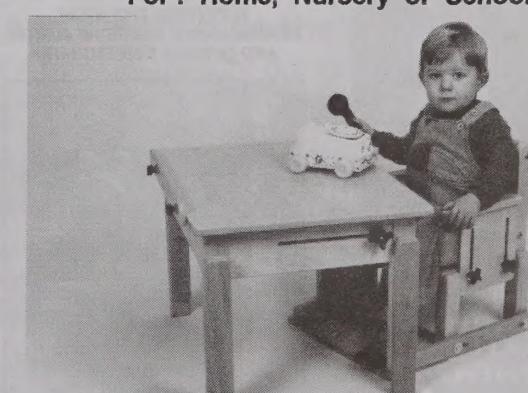
MINI-BUS & ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE CONVERTERS  
Units 3 & 4 Rodgers Industrial Estate  
Yalberton Road, Paignton, Devon. TQ4 7PJ  
Telephone: 01803 552933 Fax: 01803 522838



**G. & S. SMIRTHWAITE LTD.**

**HEATHFIELD CHAIRS,  
DESKS and TABLES**

For: Home, Nursery or School



**A FULL RANGE OF ADJUSTABLE AND ADAPTABLE  
FURNITURE FOR INFANTS TO ADULTS**

**Product Range Includes : STANDERS, LAYPRONES,  
WALKERS, and SEATING for ABDUCTION, SCHOOL,  
MOBILITY, BATHING, TOILETING and HIP-SPIKAS.  
Experts in furniture for CONDUCTIVE EDUCATION**

*Please send brochure to:*

*Name: .....*

DN 10/95

**G & S Smirthwaite, 16 Daneheath Business Park, Heathfield,  
Newton Abbot, Devon. TQ12 6TL Tel/Fax: 01626835552**

# Civil Service jobs ceiling

Disabled people face job discrimination in the top levels of the Civil Service, says an independent report commissioned by Sir Robin Butler, head of the Home Civil Service.

The report, by the Advisory Panel on Equal Opportunities in the Senior Civil Service, examined representation of disabled people and ethnic minorities.

The panel included disabled people, such as Bert Massey, director of the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation.

It revealed over-representation of disabled people in the lower levels of the service, but a lack in the upper levels.

In 1994, three-quarters of staff

registered disabled were in the lower ranks (including administrative assistants and administrative officers).

But only 0.3 per cent of registered disabled staff were in the Senior Civil Service.

In real terms, that meant there were just eight registered disabled people at grade five out of 2,848, only four in grades four and three out of 848, and none in grades one or two.

"This under representation results from a number of factors – relative under-achievement at junior levels, lack of opportunity for career development and promotion and, to some extent, the cultural ethos of the Civil Service itself," said Usha

Prashar, panel chairperson.

One of the report's 32 recommendations included the possible overhaul of the "fast-stream" selection process.

But a cautious Sir Robin said: "The possibility that we might be able to implement [all the recommendations] is attractive, but I recognise that, in some

cases, this might be easier said than done."

He was waiting for feedback from departments, agencies and Civil Service unions before deciding on any action.

*Improving Equal Opportunities in the Senior Civil Service, free, tel: 0171-270 6134.*

# 'Scrap the lottery'

The National Lottery should be scrapped because it is hurting charities, said a right-wing think-tank in September.

A report, *A Lottery for Good Causes*\*, by the Institute for Economic Affairs (IEA) says competing lotteries, some for charity and some non-profit making, should be set up.

Co-author Robert Whelan told *DN*: "There are 1,000s of small charities that are losing out. In any distribution of lottery loot, the charitable sector will lose out.

"It should be separated from good causes. When you buy a ticket, do not think you have discharged your duty as a citizen."

Graphic evidence comes from the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB), which has blamed the lottery and a fall in legacy income for causing a £2.5 million deficit.

"The amount being put in our collecting tins has fallen by a third," said RNIB director Ian Bruce. The lottery has affected funds by £500,000, he added. Services would have to be cut.

National Lottery organiser Camelot said £1 billion had already been raised for good causes. "It seems strange to want to scrap something which is being enjoyed by so many."

• Charities that receive lottery cash will now be able to apply for state funding. The Government back-tracked after secret plans barring dual funding were revealed (*DN September*).

\* £3.50, IEA, tel: 0171-799 7345

Nathan Doidge: exam joy

PHIL MONCKTON

## Top grades

Disabled students around the country came top of the class in exam results this year.

Nathan Doidge (above), 16, from Hayle, Cornwall who has cerebral palsy, got top grades in ten GCSEs, assisted by the Peto Institute in Hungary and Scope. He achieved five As, three Bs and two A stars.

Lisa Townsend, 17, from Belfast, who is deaf, got four As, four Bs and one A star in her GCSE exams.

And Elizabeth Hall, 19, from Nottingham, passed her A levels to win a place at York University.

She becomes the first blind person in Britain to take a biology degree.

Congratulations to all of them.

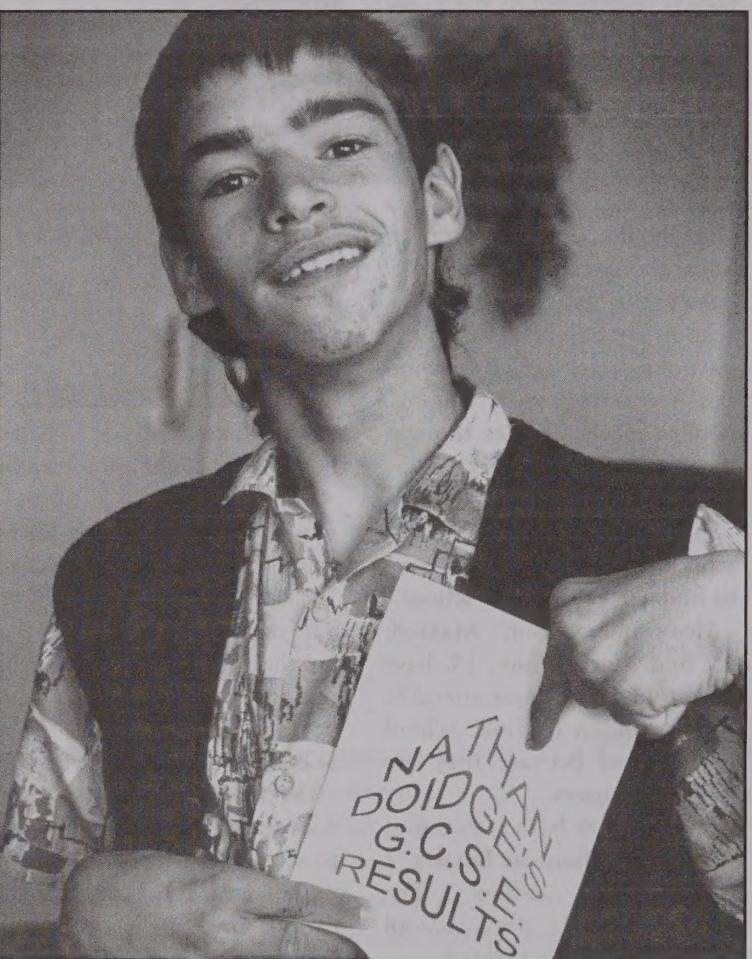
## Delayed hearing...

A rape trial at the Old Bailey in London was postponed in September because there were not enough sign language interpreters available.

The case involved a defendant who was deaf. The Royal National Institute for Deaf People has alleged that, although prior notice was given to the court, there was only one fully qualified interpreter present.

Normally two are recommended to allow for suitable breaks.

June France (left) has just finished a wheelchair relay through the Pyrenees to raise money for the Spinal Injuries Research Trust. "I was over the moon when I completed it," she said. She has raised £500 but desperately needs another £500. To help, call June's enabler, Penelope Ransley, on tel: (01484) 534606.



**Disability North '95**  
EXHIBITION  
OVER  
100  
STANDS

The latest aids to daily living & mobility  
Information & advice on a wide range of disability issues  
Free admission to be held at Gateshead International Stadium  
Wednesday 1st NOVEMBER 10.00am - 5.00pm  
Thursday 2nd NOVEMBER 10.00am - 5.00pm  
Friday 3rd NOVEMBER 10.00am - 2.30pm  
Free bus service  
Specially adapted transport to and from the exhibition may be available by contacting the following number  
**0191 284 0480**  
TYNE & WEAR PASSENGER TRANSPORT EXECUTIVE  
Further details available from  
**Disability north**  
at The Dene Centre, Castle Farm Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 1PH  
**0191 284 0480** Northern  
Minicom No: 0191 285 7261 Sponsored by

**The Personal Mobility Specialists**

**The Lightweight Wheelchair Centre**  
SUPPLYING THE HIGH PERFORMANCE RANGE OF ACTION AND QUICKIE WHEELCHAIRS

**Horizon Class 3 Scooter**

**FINANCE AVAILABLE ON ALL EQUIPMENT** (Subject to status)

Also Motability Allowance accepted

**PART EXCHANGE WELCOME**

**Minivator Stairlift**

**Neptune Bathlift**

**ICR PERSONAL MOBILITY**

**ICR NORTHERN MOBILITY CENTRE, 100 Derby Rd, Liverpool L20 1BP**  
**ICR SOUTHERN MOBILITY CENTRE, 1 Stanwell Rd, Penarth, Cardiff CF64 2AB**

**BSTA MEMBER**

**FREEPHONE 0800 136921**

# Legal aid move opposed

Moves to give legal aid to parents of children with special needs, who are unsatisfied with local authority decisions, are to be opposed by the body responsible for judging complaints.

The Special Education Needs Tribunal (SENT) is fighting the proposal from the Lord Chancellor's Office, on the grounds that widening legal aid will make its proceedings longer and costlier.

Meanwhile, a High Court case in which the Treasury challenged the right of a disabled child to appeal against a SENT decision has been thrown out on a legal technicality.

The case, between the Treasury and 14-year-old Emma van de Veldt and her mother Ann, (DN August), has wide-ranging implications for the legal aid debate.

If parents remain largely ineli-

gible for legal aid, and if the van de Veldt's lose their case, solicitors are concerned that other parents may be deterred from challenging decisions.

However, the case is now in limbo because of an administrative error by the Legal Aid Board (LAB), the body that decides who is eligible for legal aid.

In June, the family had appealed to the High Court against the decision of their local education authority in Essex and SENT not to send Emma, who has dyslexia, to a special school.

Emma had been put forward as the appellant in the case, but Treasury solicitors argue that the appellant should be a parent.

The Treasury had 28 days in which to lodge its challenge to the van de Veldt's appeal.

But, because of the length of time the LAB took in deciding

on the van de Veldt's eligibility for aid, the appeal was lodged 11 days late.

The judge, Justice Popplewell, had little option but to throw the case out, even though, according to Mrs van de Veldt, he described Emma's case as having "considerable merit".

Treasury lawyers are reported to be furious at the decision, because it means the case drags on.

The family is now appealing again, in the hope they can resolve the case.

"The only person who loses out by all this is Emma," said Mrs van de Velde.

They have also lodged an appeal with the European Court of Human Rights and the European Court of Civil Liberties and are hoping to set up a trust to help other parents fighting special needs decisions.

I have trouble with

my speech.

But it's my mum

who needs

someone to talk to.

When I was born  
with cerebral palsy  
my mum cried.  
She thought she had  
done something  
wrong. By calling  
Scope's Helpline my  
mum found some-  
body who would listen  
for as long as  
she wanted to talk.  
They've been brilliant.  
For both of us.  
You can talk to them  
too on 0800 626 216.

**SCOPE**  
FOR PEOPLE WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

Formerly The Spastics Society

Scope, formerly The Spastics Society, ran a series of poster advertisements through September. The posters are the latest stage of the charity's campaign to raise awareness about its change of name last October.

## Tory calls for new disability bill

A member of the influential Conservative think-tank the Bow Group is urging MPs to back new disability anti-discrimination legislation.

Meanwhile, Dial-a-Ride users in London have been left on tenterhooks as to whether their service will be affected by industrial action.

Drivers were balloted by the Transport and General Workers Union in September, but, as yet, no results have been published.

tion. He is currently approaching MPs to see what support a new bill would get in the house.

The Government's anti-discrimination bill is now too far gone to be amended, he said.

Prominent Tory MP and disability campaigner Sir John Hannam has announced he will stand down at the next election.

## Dial-a-Ride charity faces uncertain future

The future of embattled Dial-a-Ride charity DaRT hung in the balance as DN went to press.

The charity faces the twin threat of having its finances suspended and a rebellion by executive committee members who are furious at managers for sacking four of their five staff (DN September).

The London Borough Grants Unit (LBGU), which funds the charity to the tune of £143,000 a year, is meeting on 20 September to discuss future funding.

LBGU grants officer Doug Flight warned: "We will have to consider whether or not they are to continue getting payments. We may decide to suspend it."

And former chairman Keith Armstrong has collected 140 signatures from committee members, more than enough to force an emergency general meeting.

He has sent an ultimatum to acting chairperson Doreen Harris demanding she reinstate the four staff and agree to call in the conciliation service Acas or

hold the meeting. Ms Harris has already turned down one Acas offer of mediation.

The deadline for her reply was 12 September. Mr Armstrong has so far had no response.

Meanwhile, Dial-a-Ride users in London have been left on tenterhooks as to whether their service will be affected by industrial action.

Drivers were balloted by the Transport and General Workers Union in September, but, as yet, no results have been published.

## Thera-Posture

### Stay Independent in Comfort Automatic Adjustable Bed

Independence and comfort at the touch of a button

Theraposture offer a carefully thought-out range of products to help those with mobility problems enjoy the independence and comfort of their own homes.

#### Suppliers to DHS, and Health Authorities



Head up  
Eat, read or  
watch TV in  
comfort



Feet up  
Improve  
circulation,  
reduce fluid  
retention



Variable Height  
For easier  
nursing or  
getting in and  
out

FOR A FREE BROCHURE  
OR DEMONSTRATION,  
PLEASE 'PHONE

**(0985)  
847788**



Thera-Posture Limited,  
FREEPOST, Warminster, Wilts., BA12 8TZ

Fill in this coupon or phone for a FREE Brochure - no stamp needed

Please tick for brochure

Beds  Chairs  Transfer System

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

DIN 10



Peter Smith (centre), chairman of the Rugby and Kenilworth Conservative Disability Group, opened new disability-friendly facilities at the town's Clock Towers shopping centre in September. Changes include new lifts with braille buttons, toilet facilities and better access to shops.

## Postal thumbs-up

Post offices are installing text-phones and induction loops to make them more accessible to people who are deaf or hearing impaired, says the Royal National Institute for Deaf People.

Post Office Counters signed up to the institute's "Louder than Words" charter in September.



Our quality  
assurance  
complies  
with BS5750



**The Automatic  
Seat Lift Chair  
& AutoLift  
Slumber Recliner**  
• Stands you up  
• Sits you down  
• Nice and gently  
• At the touch  
of a button.





"If they want to steal my badge, they'll have to discuss it with Slasher first!"

Be amongst the first to experience the  
ALL NEW

## ATLAS AZTEC caravan

A.T.S. Travel are proud to announce their purchase of this UNIQUE 34 foot, 6 berth caravan, purpose built for easy access.

Situated near Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, in one of the finest, well equipped and wheelchair friendly holiday centres in the U.K., the **ATLAS AZTEC**, is now available from as little as £99 per week.

For further information and a colour brochure, call  
A.T.S. Travel NOW! on 01708 863198.

A.T.S. House, 1 Tank Hill Road, Purfleet, Essex RM16 1SX

A.T.S. TRAVEL  
U.K. EXCLUSIVE

## No summer recess for bill

The Government has extended its anti-discrimination bill to bring schools, colleges of further education and local authorities within its remit.

Once the bill becomes law, as expected, this autumn, admissions procedures will have to be reviewed to ensure disabled students are not being discriminated against. Disabled children could also have more rights of appeal.

The move is a result of amendments in the House of Lords before the summer recess.

People with HIV are also to be included in the bill.

# Thieves target orange badges

Car thieves in London are stealing orange badges from disabled drivers.

During the last year, Camden council in north London has replaced nearly 150 lost or stolen badges.

It is believed they are being sold on to able-bodied drivers at a street value of up to £250 because of the parking concessions it can give them in the congested capital.

Representatives of inner-London local authorities are due to meet the Department of Transport (DTp) to discuss the problem, though no date has been set.

Stealing an orange badge is a criminal offence, and can incur fines of up to £1,000.

The difficulty facing police and traffic wardens is that a stolen badge is very hard to detect.

Despite having its owner's photograph on it, when a vehicle is parked, it becomes almost impossible to tell whether the badge is genuine or not.

The crime trend is already having an effect on disabled people.

The Graeae Theatre Company, which is based in Kentish Town, north London, has had its vans broken into seven times over the last year.

On each occasion, nothing was taken, except the badge.

Apart from the cost of repair-

ing the vans each time, staff at the charity are worried that local authorities might eventually stop reissuing badges where owners are repeatedly making replacement applications.

A spokesperson for Camden Council said: "As time goes by, and there are increasing numbers of areas covered by parking controls, their value goes up.

"Once the word gets about, people realise it is something worth pinching."

Doug Campbell, newly elected executive director of the Disabled Drivers' Association (see page 7), said he was just waiting for a disabled person to be prosecuted for failing to show a badge, even if it had been stolen.

"We seem to be getting to a time when you cannot park if you do not display your badge, but if you do you get it stolen."

A DTp spokesperson said that, for the moment, the only evidence they had of this type of crime was anecdotal.

It was hard to tell whether it was a widespread problem, or simply confined to areas with high crime rates. If the trend was shown to be widespread, it might be necessary to redesign the badge, he added.

"It is possible that we might take a look at this if we got more evidence."

## Restaurant 'humiliation'

A disabled woman has accused a restaurant in central London of putting her through a "public humiliation".

Helen Quiller, who has cerebral palsy, was having lunch at Scoops Restaurant on Great Portland Street after visiting Scope's office near Regent's Park.

Ms Quiller, who freely admits that she makes a mess when eating, said: "They said 'I hope you'll take that mess with you'. If they said that to any other member of the public, they would be immediately unemployed."

"At the end, they actually had the nerve to tell me what times they would welcome me again. They said before 12 o'clock or after one would save myself and them embarrassment."

Yair Sulpin, manager of Scoops, said he was sorry Ms Quiller was unhappy, but reiterated that it would be better if she ate at less busy times. "I do not know if you would like to eat with 40-45 people watching you."

## TRUE SAFETY IS NOT AN OPTION



Q'Straint, for your wheelchair passenger safety



For People Who Care™

Q'Straint (Europe)

10 Wilson House, John Wilson Business Park,  
Thanet Way, Whitstable, Kent CT53QT

Tel: 01227 773035

Fax: 01227 770035

## In brief

### Letter dismay

Two thirds of blind and visually impaired people are unable to read their post, according to a survey by the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB).

*Blindness - the daily challenge* found that nearly half the 500 blind and visually impaired people surveyed were unable to get around easily or had to rely on others to read them confidential financial or medical information. "What is needed is a change of attitude," said RNIB chairman John Wall.

### New drivers' boss

Douglas Campbell is to take over as chief executive of the Disabled Drivers' Association. He replaces Mike Bruton, who was elected as a liberal democrat councillor in May (DN June). Mr Campbell was formerly treasurer of the association.

### Hitting the wrong note

Blind and visually impaired musicians face discrimination because they are unable to get to gigs and concerts, according to a nationwide survey of musicians by specialist music company Inner Visions. They also lack access to written music and information about venues, agents, festivals, recording studios and promoters.

*Blind to The Facts: an exploration of the needs of the blind and visually impaired musician.* £7. Tel: 0171-833 5828.

### A place by the sea?

Disabled people in the Brighton area can now use a register of accessible or adapted houses and flats to help them buy their dream home. It has been put together by the Halifax Building Society and the Brighton & Hove Private Sector Housing Forum.

Tel: (01273) 721041.

### Car hire deal

Car rental firm Eurodollar is now providing cars with Lynx hand controls for disabled drivers, writes Joan Shannon. The company will install the controls on any automatic car at 20 outlets free of charge. The company has 112 UK branches.

### Corrections:

From DN's September issue: The first rule of journalism is always check the spelling of names. So, our apologies to journalist Tom Walker and photographer Charles Miller for getting their's wrong.

### From DN's August issue:

The new mental health helpline CALL only covers Clwyd, north Wales, not the whole of the UK.

A new wheelchair-accessible path has been opened in Carew, Pembrokeshire, south Wales. Built by the National Park Authority and funded by the Welsh Office, it takes in views of Carew Castle, mill and river. Pictured enjoying the path are (from left): John Nicholas of the Pembrokeshire Committee for the Disabled, Gordon Cawood, chairman of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and Hazel Cook of the South Pembrokeshire Action Group.



# INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM



A car is essential for an independent life style. But why settle for something ordinary when you could be driving a Volvo - a very individual car indeed.

#### COMPETITIVELY PRICED

The new Volvo 1995 range starts from under £11,000 on the road\*.

#### MOTABILITY SCHEME

The range of Volvo's are also available under the Motability Hire and Hire Purchase schemes.

#### VOLVO SAFETY

Volvo safety features fitted as standard include Driver Airbag, Side Impact Protection and seat belt pretensioners. The superb handling, powerful braking and tenacious road holding make them extremely enjoyable as well as extremely safe to drive.

#### VOLVO PLUS

New 3 year/60,000 Mile Manufacturers Warranty - One of the most comprehensive available, replaces the parts other manufacturers do not reach.

#### LOW RUNNING COSTS

Low insurance group ratings and 10,000 mile service intervals help cut your motoring costs.

#### THE CHOICE IS YOURS

The Volvo range offers a choice of Saloons, Hatchbacks and Estates all available with a comprehensive selection of options to suit your independent needs.

# VOLVO

# A CAR YOU CAN BELIEVE IN

\*Prices quoted include Delivery, Number Plates and 6 months Road Tax. Prices correct at time of going to press.



Please detach and return to Volvo Car UK Ltd, Car Sales Dept., Globe Park Marlow, Buckinghamshire SL7 1YQ. Tel: 0628 477977

DN/10/95

Name .....

Address (including post code) .....

Telephone Number (including STD code) .....



Shadow Housing Minister Nick Raynsford (far right) joined housing and access experts in September to kick-start plans for a "best practice" guide for wheelchair-accessible housing. The Labour MP also visited a purpose-built home in Lewisham, south-east London. "We don't want wheelchair users to be kept to one side," he said. Proposals for the guide are now being sought. For a copy of the brief, tel: 0181-800 9245.



## HOLIDAYS for DISABLED PEOPLE

Flights from London, Manchester, Birmingham & Glasgow to Amsterdam, Dublin, Paris, Florida, Costa Almeria, Cyprus, Tenerife & Algarve, Gites and canal cruisers in France. Accessible Accommodation Guaranteed.

Please send Brochure to .....  
.....



DN 10/95

Access Travel (Lancs) Ltd. 16 Haweswater Ave, Astley, Lancs M29 7BL. Tel: 01942 888844.

## THE ULTRA LIGHTWEIGHT TVS BRACE FOR ARTHRITIC KNEES

TELESCOPIC VALGUS (KNOCK KNEE) / VARUS (BOW LEG) SUPPORT

The primary function of the brace is to align or straighten the limb, which may have deformed to a bow or knock knee position, due to weakness of the joint. This is usually caused by an arthritic condition, resulting in pain or undue aching when standing or walking. The brace gives full freedom of leg movement and in many cases helps with hyperextension, where the knee allows the leg to bend to the rear.

NHS  
E098

Manufactured and Supplied by

ST. CLARE ENGINEERING LTD (MEDICAL DIVISION)  
Unit 4, Hollybrook Road, Shirley, Southampton, Hampshire SO1 6RB  
Telephone 0703 510770 Fax 0703 510772

# Taxi driver's anger

A disabled taxi driver who says he had to sit a three-and-a-half-hour driving test after his licence was revoked, is claiming discrimination by his local council.

Stephen Howells, who has driven taxis for three years, was deemed unfit to drive by his GP, after Hambleton District Council, North Yorkshire, introduced a rule stating that all taxi drivers had to have a medical form.

Mr Howells lost the use of one arm 16 years ago when he was run over by robbers while working for security firm Group 4.

When he first applied to become a taxi driver, he had to take a local authority

driving test, which he passed. He argues the council made him sit an additional test this time purely because he is disabled.

"I thought I'd have a one hour medical and a one-and-a-half hour test," he said.

"But there was no medical, and I spent three or more hours driving in heavy traffic, clocking up 59 miles."

He passed the test and is now back on the road, but still angry at the way he was treated.

"I know a lot of taxi drivers who wouldn't pass the test."

Cyril Dyke, Head of Administrative Services at the council, said: "If he is concerned about

the way the assessment went, we will be interested to hear it, since it is the first time we have used it.

"It is unfortunate that, instead of a GP saying he was fit to drive, we had to send him to an assessment centre. We do not want to take away anyone's livelihood."

Nina MacFarlane of Newcastle Mobility Centre, where the test took place, questioned Mr Howells' version of events. He had received a medical questionnaire and had not spent three hours in a car, she said.

"He was given a standard assessment, and all the questions relevant to his being medically fit to drive were asked."

## New nerve gas centre at Porton Down

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has built a new complex for carrying out nerve gas tests on human beings.

The complex, at the MoD's Porton Down secret chemical warfare establishment in Wilt-

shire, will replace existing testing chambers.

Since the 1920s, nerve gases have been tested on soldiers at Porton Down, sometimes without protective clothing. 300 servicemen now claim that the

tests have left them disabled, and are suing the MoD for compensation (DN April). Ministry chiefs dispute their claims.

Labour MP Ken Livingstone has called for an end to "these dangerous and harmful tests".

## Thalidomide gene discovery

Thalidomide disabilities can be passed from one generation to another, according to the doctor who first discovered the dangers of the drug.

Dr William McBride says rat tests have shown that thalidomide disabilities can pass from parent to child through the

body's genes. His discovery is likely to lead to a wave of compensation claims.

People who are thalidomide are entitled to cash from the Thalidomide Trust, set up by original manufacturer Distillers. Second-generation claimants are not.

## Baby study cash boost

A student who is visually impaired has won more than £20,000 to fund research into blind babies.

Dundee University psychology graduate Julie Rattray will spend three years studying how visual impairment can affect a baby's development, particularly its interaction with its parents.



Julie Rattray: very excited

She will film disabled and able-bodied babies with their parents.

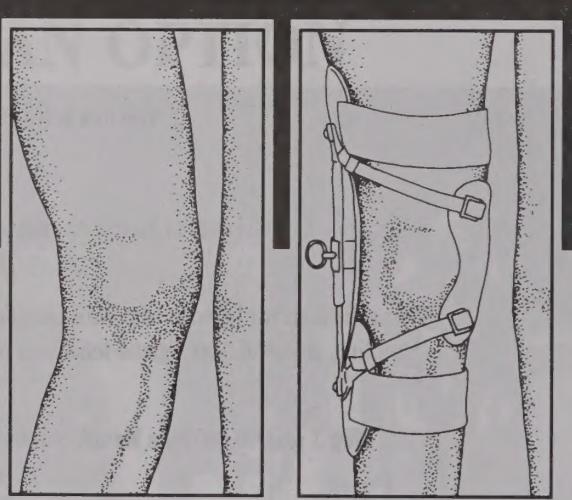
The money comes from the Economic and Social Research Council. A further £7,500 has been promised from the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

"I'm very excited," said Julie.

## Don't call me...

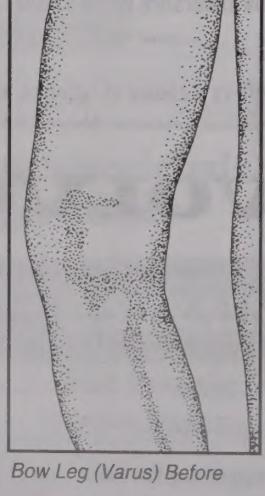
There is no evidence that circuitry in mobile telephones interferes with powered wheelchairs, hearing aids and pacemakers (DN August), says health minister John Bowis.

In a letter to MP Peter Thurnham, he argues that equipment malfunction, rather than the phones, may be to blame.

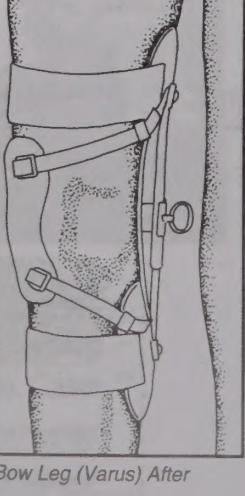


Knock Knee (Valgus) Before

Knock Knee (Valgus) After



Bow Leg (Varus) Before



Bow Leg (Varus) After

# VAUXHALL MOTABILITY.



## WE'RE WITH YOU ALL THE WAY.

It has never been easier for people with disabilities to get a new Vauxhall, particularly as Vauxhall has the largest number of Motability-approved dealerships in the UK.

Over the years Vauxhall have put thousands of people with disabilities on the right road.

So if you'd like to know more about Vauxhall Motability we have produced a brochure explaining exactly how all the acquisition schemes work.

To receive your copy simply fill in the coupon or call the Vauxhall Motability Helpline on **(01582) 861888**.



VAUXHALL MOTABILITY IS AVAILABLE THROUGH PARTICIPATING VAUXHALL DEALERSHIPS WHERE YOU SEE THE MOTABILITY APPROVED DEALER SIGN.

Please send me more information about Vauxhall Motability schemes.

I currently have a car supplied through the Motability scheme.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_



**VAUXHALL**  
Motability

Please return to: Vauxhall Motability,  
FREEPOST LOL 2149, Dunstable, Beds LU6 3YY

DN1095

## Fishy find may help dyslexia

Fatty acids found in oily fish can cure the poor night vision experienced by dyslexic people, and may lead to a treatment for the condition itself.

Researchers at Surrey University, led by Dr Jacqueline Stordy, think that retina and nerve cells in dyslexic people may lack a substance called DHA, which is found in fish.

In tests, when a group of people with dyslexia were given the substance, they gained normal night vision.

Dr Stordy will carry out more tests to see if the substance can help in the other symptoms of dyslexia.

"Because the membranes in the retina that are responsible for dark adaptation are very similar, chemically, to brain membranes, we think the supplement will help brain neurones in the way that it helps retinal receptors," she said.

In a separate study at Queen's University, Belfast by Professor Peter Hepper, unborn babies are being stimulated with sounds to see if it reduces the risk of dyslexia.

Twenty mothers are taking part in the study.

Professor Hepper is also giving exercises to schoolchildren with dyslexia who, like the unborn foetus, react to sudden noises with a physical movement.

## New clue to autism

An inherited vitamin disorder can cause some kinds of autism and other behavioural disorders say scientists.

Tests involving 100 children with various behavioural disorders, such as autism or hyperactivity, showed that many lacked vitamin B12.

These children often had a grandparent or other close relative with a condition called "pernicious anaemia", which is also caused by B12 deficiency.

The research is being carried out at the Chelsea & Westminster Hospital by Dr Ray Bhatt.

After 50 to 60 children with autism or hyperactivity were given treatment for the disorder, many showed improvements.

"Out of the blue we have stumbled on a disorder which seems to respond to treatment for B12 deficiency," said Dr Bhatt.



Klara and Bridie Lowery: a Czech technique has helped Bridie sit up

KAREN DAVIES/SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

Tests were at a very early stage, he warned, and not all children with autism or hyperactivity would have the deficiency.

## Bouncing Bridie

The mother of a girl with brain damage is calling for an east European training technique to be made available in the UK.

Eighteen-month-old Bridie Lowery became brain damaged at five months. At 14 months, she still had the development of a three-month-old.

Her mother, Klara, has taken her twice to Prague in the Czech Republic to have her treated using the "Vojta technique", developed by neurologist Vazlav Vojta.

It teaches the child to remember how to move by stimulating the senses and training the muscles.

Within two weeks of the treatment, she had the ability of a six-month-old baby. The twice daily sessions look painful, but Bridie smiles when picked up.

"Now she can roll around the room and sit herself up. She is much more aware of all of her surroundings," said Mrs Lowery.

"Until now she wasn't interested in playing with toys."

Unlike techniques developed at Hungary's Peto Institute, Vojta has not been adopted in the UK.

Caroline Coles, Scope principal education officer, said east European techniques were no more advanced than UK ones.

"They adjust the person to the environment. We try to adjust the environment to the person."

"I'm sure this technique will suit some people, but it is not a blanket cure."

## CF pills under fire

Bowel seizures suffered by children with cystic fibrosis (CF) may be caused by the plastic coating on their pills.

Professor Dick van Velzen of Liverpool University has found that 14 children who needed operations to clear scar tissue from the large bowel over the past two years had all taken capsules with a plastic coating.

He believes they may cause the seizures. Such capsules account for 30 per cent of the market.

Meanwhile, scientists at Cambridge University have bred a mouse which they claim will help in developing drugs to treat CF.

The mouse produces the defective protein found in people with the condition.

## The NISSAN & RENAULT —Vera's.—

▼ The Vera is available in both Petrol (unleaded) & Diesel versions.

▼ The 1st choice for nursing homes, charitable organisations, community transport and families alike.

▼ Inside, is a reliable and safe method of anchoring the wheelchairs and seats.

▼ A double track runs the full interior length of the vehicle. Wheelchair clamps are provided which simply hand-tighten to anchor the wheelchair firmly in any position along the track.

▼ 5 Seater (plus 1 wheelchair space) or 4 Seater (plus 2 wheelchair spaces) to luxury trim specifications \*Inc. ramps.



Experience the magnificent  
ALL NEW



VANETTE  
Vera

2.3 Diesel £12295 With Power Steering

following in the Vera tradition,  
this vehicle signifies quality.

Unique to

**Widnes  
CAR CENTRE LTD**

VERSA SALES DEPARTMENT  
Widnes Car Centre Limited,  
MOOR LANE, WIDNES,  
CHESHIRE WA8 7AL

TEL: 0151 420 2000

**TRAFFIC  
Vera**

Petrol £12195  
Diesel £12495  
2.2i Petrol & 2.1 Diesel Models ALL with Power

**EXTRA  
Vera**  
Petrol £10795  
Diesel £10295  
1.4i Petrol & 1.9 Diesel Models

**Motability** AVAILABLE

## Home Demonstration available

▼ All conversions subject to Appendix B of Relief from VAT as amended in the 1983 Acts.

▼ Including delivery, number plates and assumes exemption from road fund licence.

Contact Howard Samuels or  
John Leach for a full information pack.

FULL RANGE OF NISSAN CARS  
ON MOTABILITY FINANCE

## Comfort Pack

2 SUNROOFS, Kenwood RDS SECURITY STEREO / RADIO CASSETTE WITH 4 SPEAKERS, REMOTE ULTRA SONIC ALARM, 3 YEARS NATIONAL BREAKDOWN COVER.

**£895**

ELECTRIC WINCH £400,  
200kg RICON FULLY AUTOMATIC TAIL LIFT  
£1850.

# One for all in Bosnia

With Nato jets bombing Serbs over Sarajevo a project to give disability equality training might not seem top of the agenda in the former Yugoslavia.

But Sandy Slack, a disability equality consultant trainer and wheelchair user has been doing just that.

She has visited Tuzla in Bosnia at the request of the charity Oxfam.

She too, had doubts about the value of equality training in a region where simply surviving is the most important thing.

But she soon realised how vital it was, when she found that the experts on disability were known as "defectologists" and that some aid agencies neglected disabled people.

"We gave disability a higher

profile. Much of my work was with disabled young soldiers who had been injured at the front to help them to set up a disability movement," she said.

"They need to be ready for the end of the war so they are not put on the bottom of the pile as forgotten heroes living in poverty with no jobs."

Meanwhile, Disabled Peoples' International, (DPI), has written to governments concerned in the conflict protesting at the treatment of disabled people in the war.

In August, Serbs with learning difficulties were allegedly massacred by Bosnian troops.

Rachel Hurst has been elected as new chairperson of DPI's European Region, taking over from Kalle Konkkola, who

stepped down after being elected chairperson of DPI as a whole (DN February).

She said disabled people were always the most badly affected in any war.

As if to underline this, The Association of Multiple Sclerosis of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina-Sarajevo, has issued an appeal for help.

It needs money to buy food rich with vitamins and protein, medical provisions, orthopaedic equipment, a car and van.

For details of how to help or to make donations, write to: the Association of Multiple Sclerosis of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, U1. Antuna Branka Simica br. 11/P, Bosnia-Herzegovina

## Beijing: women speak out

Disabled women lobbied government delegates at the Fourth United Nations (UN) Conference on Women in Beijing in September.

They were also well represented at the women's non-governmental organisations (NGOs) forum.

The conference and forum were pressed by NGO members to remember disabled women's

issues and to fully incorporate them in any resolutions.

Disabled women also pressed for the conference and forum to consider the issue of eugenics.

In the past, China has been condemned by the UN for planning to use eugenics and sterilisation to prevent disabled babies being born (DN February 1994).



**Specialists in Mobility  
for the Elderly & Disabled**  
"Where Caring comes Naturally"



**NEW MODEL**  
Shoprider Sovereign II  
£1,675 VAT EXEMPT



**NEW MODEL**  
Royale 1  
£2,095

**"IT COSTS YOU LESS WHEN YOU CHOOSE FMS"**  
We have a large selection of new and used three and four wheeled scooters, and also electric wheelchairs. We offer part exchange and also purchase used vehicles.

### FREE HOME DEMONSTRATIONS

We'll come to you!

PHONE NOW!! 01895 622268



DN10/95

Please send me details on:  
 4 Wheel Scooters  3 Wheeled Scooters  Electric Wheelchairs  
 Reconditioned Vehicles  Electrically Lifting and Reclining Chairs  
 Stairlift  Adjustable Beds  
I would like a free Home Demonstration   
NAME..... TEL.....  
ADDRESS..... POSTCODE.....  
FILL IN AND SEND TO: FMS OF RUISLIP, 78 VICTORIA ROAD, RUISLIP MANOR, MIDDX HA4 0AH  
VISIT OUR SHOWROOM TODAY TEL: 01895 622268 OR 01895 625446

## STANNAH MAKES STAIRS SAFER.



Hello, Stan here.

A Stannah Stairlift makes stairs safer and helps you keep your independence.



For your free information pack complete and return the coupon or call us today.

When your thoughts turn to stairs turn to Stannah.

Phone FREE (0800) 715124 or return the coupon below.

Please complete and return to: Stannah Stairlifts Limited, Dept 7659, FREEPOST, Andover, Hants SP10 3BR.

Are you enquiring for your Household  A relative living elsewhere   
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_



## Walkabouts by Metco

### Extra mobility for around £100!

Walkabouts keep you mobile and active. They have wheels, directional control, brakes and baskets.

The Sit-Down Walkabout has a handy seat. They fold flat for transport and delivery is included in the price.

POST OUR COUPON TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: METCO WALKABOUTS, FREEPOST BEESTON, NOTTINGHAM NG9 1BR No stamp required

Tel: (0115) 925 5488

DN 10/95



**Extra mobility for around £100!**



Although taking a definite second place to the German Motor Show at Frankfurt this September, this year's British Motor Show at Earls Court should still offer some hitherto unseen models and ideas of things to come.

This year the show's organisation and marketing is being handled for the first time by P&O Events. Regrettably preview information has been pretty scant.

#### Nissan unveiled

Taking pride of place on the Nissan stand will be the all-new Almera, which will actually be launched at the show.

There are three- and five-door variants, with a four-door saloon to be launched in 1996. There will also be automatic transmission options.

However, there are, as yet, no details on prices, nor information on which models will offer automatic transmission.

Nissan's Primera Precision,

# Get carried away

Information is scant about this year's motor show. David Griffiths managed a sneak preview.



The Ford Galaxy: "people carriers" are gaining in popularity, but remain questionable for disabled drivers

which goes on sale in January, will also be on show for the first time at Earls Court.

Another newcomer will be from Vauxhall, which is launching its Vectra range in the UK at the show. This will replace the Cavalier. Saloon, hatch-back and estate models will be on display.

Honda's new Civic three-door will have already been met by the public in Frankfurt, but for Britain's buyers it will be a first showing. Built in Japan, unlike the five-door versions which are manufactured in Swindon, it

retains the smart sophistication that has wooed Civic owners since the early 1970s. As ever, there will be a choice of automatic versions.

The Shuttle MPV (multi-purpose vehicle) will also feature on Honda's stand.

MPVs or "people carriers" as they are known, are fast gaining popularity, and Ford's Galaxy is bound to attract a wide audience. Just how practical these vehicles are for people with disabilities though, is dependent very much on the

type of disability involved.

Generally they are of little use for wheelchair users, being too high to facilitate easy transfer, and too low in the roof to accommodate a seated wheelchair user without some major surgery!

#### Fun of the Fiesta

The Ford stand will have the latest Fiesta on show, alongside the original models, with which it will compete for sales for some time yet.

Daewoo Cars will have a presence at the show and will no doubt be looking to raise their profile with disabled drivers, as the company has just joined the Motability Finance scheme.

This will make cars like the Nexia available to disabled

drivers for the first time.

Earls Court has had plenty of stick in the past about its access. While owners Earls Court Olympia says things are much improved, with £60,000 spent on new facilities and a "special needs service" (DN September), its provision is still, unfortunately, below that offered by Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre.

This must be the only country in the world which runs a motor show where visitors are advised not to attend by car, but travel to the show by tube. Quite how wheelchair users are supposed to do that will be interesting.

For those rash enough to attempt driving there, there is parking available at £7.50 per day (advance booking) or £1.50 per hour on arrival.

*The London Motor Show runs from 19-29 October at Earls Court, Olympia, west London. It will feature two special days – Classic Car day on Tuesday 24 October, and Motorsport Day on Thursday 26 October. From October 23-27 it will stay open until 9pm.*

*Further information from P&O Events, tel: 0171-958 3911.*

*Advance ticket reservations, tel: 0171-244 0338.*

*To reserve a Parking Space, tel: 0171-370 8458*

## MOBILITY SOLUTIONS FOR DISABLED DRIVERS & PASSENGERS

WE OFFER A COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE, FROM HAND CONTROLS TO WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE AND WHEELCHAIR DRIVER VEHICLES, AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN. IF YOU HAVE A MOBILITY PROBLEM CALL US FOR THE SOLUTION.



EXTRA



COURIER



The five-door Nissan Almera: set to be launched at this year's show

**G & M  
COACHWORK**

**DEVON**



**VEHICLES FOR THE DISABLED**

CAR AND LIGHT VAN CONVERSIONS FOR THE FAMILY. WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBILITY PLUS 3-6 SEATS. A SELECTION OF NEW OR GOOD USED VEHICLES BUILT TO SUIT YOUR INDIVIDUAL REQUIREMENTS. FOR ADVICE ON CONVERSIONS, MOTABILITY & VAT EXEMPTION CONTACT: DAVID VOOGHT, TEL: 01803 812260

**POYNTING  
CONVERSIONS**

FARADAY ROAD  
CHURCHFIELDS IND. EST.  
SALISBURY  
WILTSHIRE  
SP2 7NR  
01722 336048

# SIMPLY THE BEST

Model	Type	Engine	Price
<b>Renault 'Eco'</b>	Diesel	1.9 Ltr	<b>£11,292</b>

PASSENGER AREA LENGTH 1550MM (61IN)

INTERIOR HEADROOM 1420MM (56IN)

ACCESS HEIGHT 1420MM (56IN)

Model	Type	Engine	Price
<b>Ford 'Combi'</b>	Diesel	1.8 Ltr	<b>£13,299</b>

PASSENGER AREA LENGTH 1500MM (59IN)

INTERIOR HEADROOM 1550MM (61IN)

ACCESS HEIGHT 1500MM (59IN)

Type	Engine	Price
Petrol/Diesel	1.6/2.3 Ltr	<b>£18,958</b>

INTERIOR HEADROOM 1370MM (54IN)

ACCESS HEIGHT 1300MM (51IN)

Here at Brotherwood we are committed to raising customer satisfaction through design and service of our vehicles. There are several ways in which you can acquire a Brotherwood vehicle, through one of the three year

**CONTRACT HIRE** schemes or we can provide a special adapted **HIRE PURCHASE**

**SCHEME**. Also there is outright purchase which may be a benefit if your Mobility award is less than 3 years.

Brotherwood have been manufacturing vehicles for more than 10

years and over this period a strong market in **PRE-OWNED**

**VEHICLES** has been created. All these vehicles are fully refurbished to the highest standards. You can be assured of peace of mind with a Brotherwood Conversion

**Simply the Best**



**BROTHERWOOD**

A U T O M O B I L I T Y L I M I T E D

Pillar Box Lane, Beer Hackett, Sherborne, Dorset. DT9 6QP • Telephone: 01935 872603 • Fax: 01935 872853



Nissan Prairie

Three reports have turned the spotlight on community care this month, revealing a system that is failing disabled people and carers.

Over the next three pages, *DN* investigates how elderly and disabled people and carers are faring. We also look at what you can do when you feel the system has failed.

Scope's *Counting the Cost on Community Care* is the fourth in the charity's *Disabled in Britain* series, and surveyed 1,500 disabled people and 1,300 carers.

As reported last month, it concluded that many are thoroughly dissatisfied. More people feel the costs are rising while the service is getting worse.

Elderly disabled people in London are falling through what has become a "partial safety net", according to Age Concern London's report *Home Comforts*.

Better planning and assessment procedures are needed and fewer financial limits to ensure that both housing and care is adequate.

A lack of resources to meet the rising numbers of people in need has led to care being rationed in Scotland, says Age Concern Scotland in its report *Home Care - Users' Views and Service Guidelines*. Home helps also have less time for their clients, it concludes.

\* £4.95, tel: 0171-636 5020.

† £5, tel: 0171-737 3456.

• £10, tel: 0131-220 3345.

In June, Ralph Boyce, the husband and carer of *DN* agony aunt Lin Berwick, suffered a hamstring injury in his knee that meant he was unable to care fully for Lin.

He is 62, and has been married to Lin, who is blind and has cerebral palsy, for eight years.

What followed was a nightmare of bureaucracy, delay and worry, as Lin fought a running battle with her local council in Havering, north London, to be provided with an appropriate replacement care package and to prevent her being put into a residential care home.

Ralph's accident happened at the beginning of June. On 6 June, Hazel Rolf, manager of the British Nursing Association in Romford, visited Lin. She contacted Hornchurch social services home care department.

Two days later, Lin was offered what she calls "a derisory" extra hour of shopping, on top of the five hours she has already.

The same day, she says, she applied for an emergency assessment in case Ralph had to stop caring completely. This application was confirmed to *DN* by Hazel Rolf.

However, Havering claims no request was made until 13 July.

The assessment was finally arranged for 24 July, a full six weeks after Lin's first, alleged, request. The social worker making the assessment filled in the form for Lin, an action she felt emphasised what she could not do rather than her abilities.

"I felt so degraded. I thought 'what have I strived for?'. I might just as well give up and sit in a corner."

# Your care: exactly

When *DN* agony aunt Lin Berwick's husband was injured, residential



Lin and Ralph Boyce: care assessment left her feeling "degraded"

Lin was told Havering would get back to her on its decision, and that she would be allocated a social worker for further discussion about long-term care.

"He said if I needed 24-hour care, then probably residential care would be the option.

"I worked out that 24-hour, seven-day care would cost £1,264 a week. For me to stay in respite care costs £450 a week. Naturally, I felt they would take the cheapest option."

As Ralph's savings total more than £8,000, Lin is ineligible for Independent Living Fund. She is also unable to earn sufficient money to pay for 24-hour care, meaning that residential care is a real long-term possibility, a

prospect that both frightens and incenses her.

"I still want to work. Work gives me my credibility and makes me feel like a whole person."

In September, she started a part-time degree in homeopathy at the London College of Classical Homeopathy, becoming the college's first blind student.

"If I had to go into residential care, that would go out of the window," she says.

"It is nonsensical. I would not pay tax, all my money would be going to the Government. Care should not be based on ability to pay. It should not be finance led, but we all know it is."

A spokesperson for Havering council said: "In the event of

Mrs Boyce's husband being unable to provide her current level of care, we fully understand her needs and will provide the package of care required.

"We have looked at a flexible package of care for Mrs Boyce, not at any provision for residential care. Charges for home-care packages are linked to the receipt of benefits and are not means-tested."

Since the assessment, Lin has heard nothing further about her long-term care prospects from the council.

For the time being, she and Ralph are able to cope, but as his knee gets worse – it has now been shown to be an osteoarthritis condition – she fears the worst.

"We have not got to the point where I need 24-hour care, but it would come if Ralph had to go into hospital.

"Realistically, in five years time, he will not be able to do what he does for me now."

## 'I can't afford home care'

"I would like home care, but I know I would not be able to afford it," says Joy Marshall, from Islington, north London.

Mrs Marshall, aged 60, spent 17 years caring for her husband Mark, who died in 1993 of emphysema.



Joy Marshall: happy to be moving out of her borough

NIC PATON

She now has difficulty walking and getting to the shops. She is on income support.

The cost of care, even at the minimum rate, would be too much for her, she says, and so she has not even bothered to apply. Islington Council charges a minimum of £4 for home help.

"I will just have to rely on my neighbours or daughters, but they have their own lives."

She is moving out of the borough to Enfield, also north London, later on in the year to be nearer to her daughter.

"Maybe things will be better there," she says.

### THE GYPSY FROM CAREHOUSE

The Gypsy is an attractive and robust electrically powered wheelchair that can be used outdoors and indoors in comfort and safety. Its well engineered components are designed to dismantle and reassemble with ease and without tools.

- COMPLETE WITH KERB CLIMBER
- ◆ BREAKS DOWN EASILY INTO MANAGEABLE PARTS
- NO HEAVY LIFTING
- FITS INTO THE SMALLEST OF CAR BOOTS
- VERY COMFORTABLE AND EASY TO USE
- ◆ ATTRACTIVELY FINISHED IN TEAL BLUE

### GOING PLACES OTHER MACHINES CAN'T REACH - WITH AN ALDERSLEY EXCEL!

Independent suspension - moves with the muscle tone of a cat!

#### EXCEL MINI

10-25 stone

Ideal trecker

Unique  
25-40 stone  
carrying capacity

Comfortable and stable

Adjustable for size

Manoeuvrable  
Compact for transportation

Carer or user control



Versatile indoor and outdoor

#### EXCEL SENIOR

Aldersley Battery Chairs Limited  
24-26 Old Meeting Road, Coseley,  
West Midlands WV14 8HB  
Tel: 0121 520 6942  
Fax: 0121 522 4833

ROAM FREELY WITH A GYPSY

Designer Disabled Appliances Limited, Freepost WA1657, Widnes, Cheshire WA8 6BR

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TEL: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE: \_\_\_\_\_

For full information on the GYPSY and other Carehouse products to aid independent living, please return this coupon FREEPOST to the above address, or alternatively please telephone us on 0151 420 3547, or fax us on 0151 420 6107



DN 10/95

# what is going on?

care suddenly loomed. For Kevin Holmes (below) things are brighter.

Hampshire County Council broke with traditional thinking 14 years ago when it gave a group of disabled people in residential care the money to employ their own personal assistants.

The Self-Operated Care Scheme (SOCS) enabled them to live independently in the community and take control of their own lives.

This year, with nearly 300 people using the scheme, and a few other local authorities running similar schemes, Government policy finally caught up.

Virginia Bottomley, then Secretary of State for Health, gave personal assistance schemes her blessing last year (DN December 1994).

However, money still has to be channelled through charities until new legislation allows it to go direct to the disabled person. That probably will not happen until next year.

Meanwhile, Hampshire has moved ahead again. In February, the first four disabled SOCS development workers were appointed.

Three are SOCS users, so they know how it works and can advise and support new or existing users.

Paid for by Hampshire social services, but employed by local charities, they have the independence to act as advocates on

behalf of disabled users.

They also feed back information so social services can be sensitive to users' needs, promote the scheme to disabled people and run training sessions.

The scheme also saves the council money. SOCS cost social services £5.29 an hour (care plus extras, like advertising or overnight costs). By contrast, direct services, such as care attendants or home helps, cost an estimated £9-£9.50 an hour.

The scheme is flexible: a disabled person might need a lot of care or only an hour – for shopping, perhaps. The maximum amount of care is 38 hours a week (£200).

Above that, you can apply to the Independent Living Fund for extra funding. At present there is no means test for SOCS.

The scheme is open to physically disabled people aged 16-65. The opportunity is there for all disabled people, but confusion over community care funding means that at the moment it is not available for everyone.

People interested in SOCS ask their social worker for an assessment. They may also request an assessment by an occupational therapist for advice on helpful equipment or adaptations.

Out of this joint assessment, in which the user takes part, comes agreement about what help is needed. There are financial

restraints, so every wish will not be granted.

The social worker decides if SOCS is suitable. Applicants must show that they would benefit from the scheme and can manage it – recruiting and employing staff, coping with

the money, and dealing with insurance and tax matters. All this can be daunting, which is where a development worker can help the process.

From assessment to start-up takes about six weeks. Monitoring by the social worker occurs every month, then at three or six month intervals.

*For information about setting up a similar scheme, tel: (01703) 434218.*

*Kevin Holmes is a SOCS development worker.*



Ex-round-the-world sailor Carolyn Sinclair (left), who is now a SOCS user, with her nanny/carer Anne Waterman, and sons David, five, and Andrew, two. "SOCS allows me choice, quality of life and independence," she says. "Without it, I would be unable to have outside interests, and I just wouldn't be coping at home." INNES MARLOW

## In brief

### Sisters under threat

Two sisters who have lived together since they were widowed 35 years ago face being forced apart because of community care regulations.

Martha Lewis, 95, and Shirley Freedman, 91, live in a nursing home in Finchley, north London.

Martha will be able to stay because she has always relied on state aid. But Shirley, who initially paid the £5,560 a year fees, will have to move now her savings have run out.

Under the act, a local authority has to pay for nursing home care once savings have been used up, provided the person changes homes. Local Tory MP Hartley Booth has raised the issue with John Major. "This system is very, very cruel," he said.

### Savings relief

People wanting to put aside money for future care needs may be able to divert part of their pensions into long-term care insurance.

The move is set to be unveiled by Chancellor Kenneth Clarke in his November budget. Current rules have forced many elderly people to use up savings and sell their homes to pay for care.

Meanwhile, elderly people are going on exotic holidays and buying luxury cars rather than saving money to be eaten up by care costs, according to the TV programme *World in Action*.



**Manufacturing specialists in shower bases & enclosures for those with special needs.**



Innovative care products for independent living. Check what we can offer you.

**FREE Survey**

**5 YEAR guarantee & quality**  
Standard ISO9002

**Full after sales service**

**A wide range of products with colour choice**

**INVA-DEX LTD.**

66-68 Manchester Road, Chapel-En-Le-Frith, Stockport,  
Cheshire SK12 6RZ Tel: 01298 816366 Fax: 01298 816106

BROCHURE REQUEST FREE PHONE 0800 716652

If you are experiencing difficulties in showering or bathing, we have the solution to your problem.

## NEW WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VOLKSWAGEN



**ONLY £189.14\* PER MONTH**

- Secure a NEW VW LIFELINE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE FAMILY VEHICLE from Simpsons.
- 1.9 DIESEL ENGINE fitted with Power Assisted Steering.
- Complete with Ramp and Wheelchair fittings.
- Contact ANDREW BELL for details.
- WE BUY ALL MAKES OF WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES.
- Part-Exchange welcome.

**FREE MOBILE PHONE!**  
for driver or passengers to keep in touch. (Subject to status).

**MAKE SURE IT'S**

# Simpsons

**SPECIALIZED VEHICLES**

**Notability**  
APPROVED DEALER

Cooke Rd., South Lowestoft Industrial Estate, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 7NA. Tel: (01502) 516831

# 'I have got to fight'

Nic Paton talks to Maria Goldenberg, a carer who is fighting back

The final straw for Maria Goldenberg came in June when she received a letter from her local council in Orpington, Kent telling her that there was going to be a change in her charges for community care.

She cares for her husband Alan, who has Parkinson's disease. She also has mobility problems herself.

"I suddenly thought 'I have got to fight for Alan,'" she says. "But what could I do?"

She decided to start a campaigning body, the Community Care Protection Group, to highlight the increasing charges for community care faced by carers and disabled people, using the slogan "One carer, two voters".

"What we have to offer is a tremendous block vote. Every single one of us is a voter. Recognise your voting potential."

She is now in touch with individuals and groups from Norwich to Cheshire and Dorset, and has links with Scope and Mencap. The group is funded purely by donations.

A lobby of Parliament is being planned for 18 October. Shadow Social Security Secretary Donald Dewar will be speaking, and Maria is hoping that 2,000 people will attend.

"I am sending a message to all councillors and MPs, no matter what their party, asking them to just take note. This is not a fragmented group. There are 6.8

million carers and 6.6 million disabled people. There are also an immense number of people who belong to both groups."

"We must have a complete rethink. If we go along the road of total means-testing, it will be corrosive and destructive. It will be a return to the thirties."

Community care is being eroded by political ideology, she argues.

"I see quite clearly the end scenario. All the elderly, frail people in homes will become destitute."

"Then all those who are on benefits will have them clawed back until they are unable to afford the service. These people will gradually slip back on other bills."

"They will be in a spiral of

debt, or they might, for instance, not renew the insurance on their electric wheelchair."

For Maria it is a very personal campaign, and she has had to learn as she goes along.

"Sometimes I don't think I have enough physical strength. I have got the drive, if my body will hold out."

"The Poll Tax was changed by people power, VAT on fuel was changed by pensioner power and this has got to be changed by all of us."

"We haven't any other option but to fight. We have got to see a turnaround. There just comes a point when you cannot pay."

*Community Care Protection Group, tel: (01689) 858870.*



Maria Goldenberg: "People will be in a spiral of debt." NIC PATON

## Don't be afraid to complain on care

How do you object when care provision goes wrong? Solicitor Luke Clements explains.

What can you do when a local authority withdraws a much-needed community care service, or a promised service fails to materialise, or if it makes an "across the board" cut in services such as home helps?

Generally, you have three options: complain to your local authority, complain to your local ombudsman, or apply to the High Court for a judicial review.

### Authority complaints

Local authorities have a three-stage complaints procedure: informal, formal and review.

The informal stage has no time limits and is an opportunity to solve the problem through conciliation and negotiation.

If this does not work (or you decide to skip the stage altogether, which you can do) you go to the second, formal, stage.

To do this you should write to the director of social services stating your complaint, and then adding the magic words: "This is a formal complaint, which I want registered and investigated at stage two of the complaints procedures. I do not want it to be the subject of an informal investigation."

The authority then has 28 days (extendable to three months) to provide a formal response.

If you are still unsatisfied, you can go to the third, review, stage, where the complaint goes to a review panel. This is required to convene within 28 days.

The panel considers oral or written submissions from both sides and consists of three people, at least one of whom must be independent.

Within 24 hours of the hearing, the panel must make its written recommendation to the director of social services, who then has a further 28 days to decide whether or not to go along with their advice.

### Ombudsman complaints

If you are still unhappy, you are entitled to go to your Commission for Local Administration, also known as the Local Government Ombudsman. The address should be in your phone book.

This is a slow but impartial process, and if successful, will often result in compensation.

Complaints that might be dealt with include delays in implementing disabled facilities grants, or complaints about shoddy home adaptations.

### Judicial review

The final way to challenge a local authority decision is in the courts through a judicial review. This is a specialised area, where expert legal advice is essential.

The time limits for making applications are tight. Legal aid is available, in general for people on income support or similar income with savings below £3,000. But the courts are reluctant to interfere with local authority decisions, and usually only do so if it can be shown that the authority either misunderstood the law or that the way it came to a decision was wrong.

A good example is the case against Gloucestershire County Council, where the council, because it was short of funds, withdrew home help from some disabled adults (DN December 1994). The court ruled in favour of the complainants, though the case has now gone to appeal.

Many community care issues are the subject of judicial review, cases such as the legality of home care charging policies and the responsibility of the National Health Service for continuing care of elderly persons.

What is certain is that there will be a significant increase in cases like these over the next few years to clarify the issues in this new and complex legal area.



## The New Volkswagen Caravelle by Invatravel Conversions



Various options of wheelchair access available on this super new model, including:

- underfloor electro-hydraulic lifts
- hydraulic lowering rear suspension with spring assisted alloy ramp
- manual ramps, etc

Disabled driver options for full independence.

Prices start from £15,500.00 on the road excluding all taxes from which disabled users are exempt.

Contact Paul Cassidy, tel: 01704 506608, Fax: 01704 506607.  
66 Knob Hall Lane, Southport PR9 9QS.



RECOGNISED CONVERTER

You've left school or college, you're full of energy and enthusiasm and you're itching to get out into the job market. What do you do?

Steve Gibbins, 20, and Matt Stabb, 24, who both have cerebral palsy, faced this problem when they left education two and five years ago respectively.

The option of going into a day centre did not appeal. "They are ideal for some people, but not for others. I think they are a throw-back to early institutions. We knew what we wanted," says Matt.

This is obvious when you meet them. Matt, who looks like he would be more at home at a rock festival, is volatile but determined in his outlook. Steve is the quieter of the two, with a slightly studious air, but no less ambitious for that.

The two are now working voluntarily for a charity in Plymouth called Independence. Part-funded by Scope's Gateopener scheme, to the tune of £20,000 over three years, the

# Jobs for the boys?

(4) When Matt Stabb and Steve Gibbins left education they were determined not to end up in a day centre. But how can they realise their ambitions? Nic Paton found out.

officers on a "transition group".

This meets monthly and is designed to raise awareness of the particular problems faced by disabled students as they try to work out the job market.

**"Day centres are a throw-back to earlier institutions. We knew what we wanted"**

Sometimes, the only available information can be woefully out of date, says Mark Rickman, chief executive of Independence. "It is surprising how many people do not have access to even the most basic informa-

tion into mainstream schools and colleges, and the Government making access to information easier.

"Scope, for instance, has not got a proper policy of integrated education. I would also like to see every Citizen's Advice Bureau made fully accessible."

Steve started off in a mainstream comprehensive and then went to a special school because there were not enough facilities, a move he regretted. Matt has been educated entirely in the special school system.

Disabled people should not limit themselves to "obvious jobs" such as computing, Matt argues. But they should not simply expect to get a job just because they are disabled.



Matt (left) and Steve. "People who have got a voice, like us, should fight for those who have not." NIC PATON

charity is affiliated to the Devon Disability Information Advice Federation. It provides opportunities for disabled people in housing, employment, training and advice.

Steve and Matt are working with the full-time staff to set up an information advice service for disabled school leavers, and disabled people on benefit in the Devon area. Eventually they hope to have a bus to help them get around.

It is often difficult to know who or where to turn when you have just left school or college, argues Steve.

"Once you get to 16 plus, the professional people tell you what they think might be a good idea. But we wanted to share our experience with disabled people."

They are also putting together an information pack to send to mainstream and special schools all over Plymouth and Devon, as well as working with employers, careers officers and social services policy

tion. Many disabled people end up having to rely on parents for information, which may not be accurate.

"We have people who have been in day centres for ten or 15 years just filling time wandering around."

For him, the answer lies in better integration, both charities encouraging disabled peo-

"I feel people who have got a voice, like us, should fight for those who have not."

In September, Matt started a GCSE in sociology at Plymouth College of Further Education, a mainstream college, which he hopes will help him in his dream to be a full-time information officer.

Both have the same ambition.

*fellowship*  
tours

to the LANDS of the BIBLE.

Further Details From  
Fellowship Tours  
Dept DN, Freepost, PO Box 29, Chard, Somerset, TA20 2YY  
Tel (01460) 220540, Fax (01460) 220918

ATOL 1526

ABTA

And though they have achieved a great deal, they still find their long-term ambitions limited, especially in being unable to job hunt nationwide.

"It is having to rely on other

people to a certain extent that is frustrating," says Steve. "Being tied to Devon social services."

*Independence, tel: (01752) 605655*

## PREPARE FOR THE RAINS WITH THE INNOVATIVE SIMPLANTEX H.C COCOON & SCOOTER CAPE

Simplantex H C have been providing an exciting range of weatherwear for the less able bodied for forty years. Centre and left is the versatile COCOON which gives the user a snug and warm environment in the worst of weathers!

**\*MADE OF HEAVYWEIGHT PVC AND WIND RESISTANT NYLON, THE COCOON FITS TIGHTLY TO YOUR WHEELCHAIR AND ALLOWS YOU TO TRAVEL OUT AND ABOUT IN TOTAL COMFORT!**

**£63 +£4 P&P**

Access      VISA

JUST SEND YOUR CHEQUE, PO, OR YOUR CREDIT CARD NO. FOR TOTAL AMOUNT AND WE'LL SEND THESE QUALITY PRODUCTS BY RETURN OF POST.

**SEND TODAY FOR YOUR FREE COLOUR BROCHURE OF OUR FULL RANGE**

**£31 +£4 P&P NYLON**

Pictured above is the best selling Simplantex H C SCOOTER CAPE, giving protection from wind and rain.

**THE EUROPEAN BRAND LEADERS**

**Health Care Ltd**

DEPT. DN595 SIMPLANTEX H C LTD., HEALTHCARE HOUSE, WILLOWFIELD ROAD, EASTBOURNE, EAST SUSSEX BN22 8AP. TELEPHONE 01323 411618. FAX: 01323 412781

**BATHLIFTS ✓ STAIRLIFTS ✓ SCOOTERS ✓ GRAB RAILS ✓ WALKING AIDS ✓ SHOWERSSEATS ✓ BEDS ✓**

## SITTING COMFORTABLY? ✓

**For a range of ELECTRIC RISE AND RECLINE ARMCHAIRS to help you...**

- ✓ STAND UP
- ✓ SIT DOWN
- ✓ RECLINE
- ✓ RELAX

**FREE COLOUR BROCHURE AND NO OBLIGATION HOME DEMONSTRATION CALL TODAY**

<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>0181 742 2181</b>
<b>EAST MIDLANDS</b>	<b>01933 679426</b>
<b>WEST MIDLANDS</b>	<b>01384 484544</b>



**KEEPABLE**  
Making life easier



**POWER CHAIRS ✓ CUSHIONS ✓ LIFTERS ✓**

# Letters to the Editor



Disability **NOW**, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ  
Minicom: 0171-436 9914  
e-mail: dnow@d-access.demon.co.uk

## Community dentists care

I was very saddened to read the letter by Sue Fisher (DN May) expressing her frustration over difficulties finding accessible dental care.

The community dental service is developed to provide dental care to those who, for whatever reason, would find difficulty accessing treatment from the general dental service.

In many areas, there are clinics that are well-equipped to cope with those who have

physical disabilities.

The use of mobile clinics which are adapted for wheelchair users are becoming more widespread.

In addition, many dentists in the community service have undertaken extra training to enable them to offer effective and appropriate care.

**Kate Sandu**

West Kent community dental service  
Paddock Wood, Kent

### The Disabled Drivers Association

The UK organisation for disabled drivers and passengers OFFERS :



**ADVICE** - personal and confidential help service

**FRIENDSHIP** - through local groups

**BENEFITS** - ferry and other cost concessions

**HOLIDAYS** - provision and advice

**CAMPAIGNS** - local and national action

**INFORMATION** & "Magic Carpet" magazine

### Ease your way with

The Disabled Drivers Association  
Ashwellthorpe, Norwich, NR16 1EX  
Tel: 01508 489449 Fax: 01508 488173



## New Intelligent Prosthesis Plus

### A leap into the future with Endolite

#### Simpler user friendly adjustment combined with superior performance

- Suitable for any amputee category
- Integral speed detection Adjusts automatically to any speed
- Significantly reduces gait deviations and walking effort
- Real time interactive programming
  - Programmable with cosmesis in place

- Quick to learn and simple to operate
- Easy change of programme setting
- Powerful pneumatic cylinder
- Interchangeable with any 160mm geometry shin
- Simple maintenance and diagnosis
- Easily replaceable batteries

Order the Intelligent Prosthesis Plus part number 019138 by contacting the Blatchford Sales Department on 01256 465771.

**ENDOLITE**

**Chas. A. Blatchford & Sons Ltd**

Lister Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG22 4AH United Kingdom  
Telephone: 01256 465 771 Facsimile: 01256 479 705

## At odds with Government?

I was surprised to read (DN August) the comments by new Minister for Disabled People Alistair Burt that he believes that "consensus is as important as confrontation", but simultaneously parades his "Christianity, which fuels his strong pro-life, anti-embryo experimentation beliefs".

As Disability Minister, Alistair Burt should be aware that there are equally strong Christians who believe in the value of medical research to reduce the tragic incidence of crippling inherited genetic disorders. Indeed, the Church of England Synod itself voted in favour of the Government's

legislation on embryo research, which Alistair Burt as a member of the Government should be supporting.

I trust that Alistair Burt in his new capacity will acknowledge that many of those who have the practical care of the disabled do not welcome the public display of his controversial personal views.

He should visit leading British centres, such as Hammersmith Hospital, so that he can begin to appreciate pioneering research techniques to help those most in need, not only in Britain, but all over the world.

**Peter Thurnham MP**  
House of Commons

## Dial-a-Ride drivers get good deal

On issues raised over industrial action in Dial-a-Ride (DN September), it is correct that Dial-a-Ride drivers have been offered a 1 per cent pay award. This is in line with current pay settlements in other parts of the publicly funded transport sector.

The salaries of our drivers, averaging about £275 per week, compare favourably with similar organisations and are higher than most salaries in private and privatised bus companies. Indeed, the Transport and General Workers' Union has produced literature which says that professional drivers are often required to work extremely long hours for very little pay; certainly the 37.5 hour week

(and sometimes less) of our drivers seems light years away from the majority of similar jobs.

Also, the terms and conditions enjoyed by present drivers are generous, for example, up to six weeks paid holiday per year, up to 12 months paid absence in the event of illness and up to 11.4 per cent pension contribution.

North London Dial-a-Ride is striving to increase its efficiency: we want to be able to provide more trips for more people. This will result in a lower cost per trip figure. We are offering drivers who contribute to greater efficiency a series of bonus payments. No staff member will lose pay to fund this.

**Doreen Scott**  
North London Dial-a-Ride Ltd

## Accessible taxis – still searching

In August DN, David Gerry of Carmobility promoted his product by arguing against taxis which are accessible to all disabled people, including wheelchair users.

The search for an accessible taxi was prompted by complaints from disabled people that saloon car taxis were difficult or impossible to get into.

However, it does not follow that a vehicle designed to accommodate wheelchair users will be inaccessible to others. The aim now is to find a vehicle that is right for everyone.

Swivel seats are already being fitted into some London style taxis and it is likely that private hire vehicles (phv) will use them much more in the future.

There are twice as many phvs as hackney cabs, not covered by the Disability Discrimination Bill. Also, the bill gives local authorities powers to seek exemptions from a 100 per cent accessible taxi policy, but the Secretary of State must consult the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee, half of whose members are disabled.

It is up to opposers of accessible transport to make their case, rather than disabled people having to justify why they should travel like other people.

**Bert Massie**  
Director  
RADAR, London EC1

**Sic**



### Hold till next year

Thanks to readers Lin and Ralph Boyce for the photo above. "No wonder Frinton is deserted in the winter," they commented. Who knows, with a disability-friendly loo Frinton might suddenly become a year-round hot spot?

### Postie's revenge?

Ever keen to bring you the best in news coverage, DN applied for press accreditation for the Conservative party conference in Blackpool. Our letter was returned "addressee unknown". A post office worker's response to creeping privatisation? Evidence of parlous party finances? Or could Smith Square have deserted the Tory cause? The newshounds are out.





Weekend style, left: Jean wears a cream blouse (polyester, £15, Marks and Spencer's) with a blue cardigan (wool/acrylic/nylon, £39.99, Next) and beige trousers (wool, £45, Marks & Spencer's). Eric wears brown chunky cords (cotton/polyester, £26, Marks & Spencer's) with a burgundy jumper (cotton, £59, Racing Green).

She means business, below: Irene chooses a smart image combining cream blouse (polyester, £22.50, Marks & Spencer's) and navy jacket (polyester, £39.99, Next) with a pink, pleated skirt (polyester, £22.50, Marks & Spencer's).



# Fashion

Hannah Crabtree finds that you don't have to be young to look good

Watch out Kate Moss and Naomi Campbell. DN has searched the streets of Manchester and found four new supermodels!

You don't have to be in your teens to get into fashion. The high-street stores are offering far more variety for older shoppers who want to follow the trends.

DN asked Jackie Whitworth, manager of The Style Centre, at Disabled Living Services in Manchester, to help our models get chic with some of this season's off-the-peg fashions.

Designers are concentrating on the soft and cosy look this autumn. The high-street shops are full of comfortable jumpers, tweeds and coats. Retailers are also coming to realise that not everyone fits into a size 14 and are beginning to offer a wider range of sizes.

Bring out the silks and pearls to make the most of your wardrobe. A carefully chosen necklace, scarf or bag can dress up an outfit, or revamp an old favourite.

Jean Seabright, 58, is paralysed down her right side. She and her husband Eric, 61, commented on how difficult it is to find stylish clothes in varied sizes.

Eric particularly liked the corduroys. "They are not something I would usually wear but I may do in the future."



Jean had her eye on the beige suit, as it fitted well and was comfortable. "I'll have to get my children to buy it for my birthday!"

Irene Taylor, 67, has spina bifida and is a wheelchair user. She liked the feel of the angora

## Disability NOW

- News
- Holidays
- Arts
- and much more...

- Jobs
- Gardening
- Sport
- Equipment

- Benefits
- Motoring
- Equipment

Are you one of the 80,000 readers keeping up-to-date with **Disability Now** every month? If not, don't miss out. Fill in this coupon now.

Individuals at home address - £14 (12 issues)  £27 (24 issues)

Professionals/organisations - £19 (12 issues)  £37 (24 issues)

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

POSTCODE.....

Please return to **Disability Now**, 12 Park Crescent, FREEPOST 17, London W1E 3HU. Cheques should be made payable to **Disability Now**.  
Multiple copy rates available on request.  
Tel: 0171-383 4575.

TEL: 0171-383 4575  
FOR CREDIT CARD  
PAYMENTS



Sporty style: Sally and Irene were bowled over by these comfy casuals. Sally wears a pink top (cotton, £35, Racing Green) with wide-legged blue, drawstring trousers (cotton, £25, Marks & Spencer's). Irene wears a pink top (cotton, £30, Racing Green), cream wrap-over cardigan (wool, £25, Marks & Spencer's).

# over fifty

ing to be fashionable this autumn



although she said it reminded her of the overalls she used to wear in the 1940s. Irene, 76, has arthritis in her hips. She chose casual blue trousers, as they were a comfortable fit, easy to pull on and had an elastic waistband. But her favourite was a camel coat. "I'd get a toy boy if I went shopping! The handbag is nice and light,

although I don't think all the money I'm going to win in the lottery will fit inside!"

*The Style Centre, tel: 0161-832 3678.*

*Thanks to Tameside Council for the use of Rycroft Hall.*



combines a spotted blue blouse (linen, £32, Racing Green). Irene (mix, £34.99, Next) and tweed

RAY TOWERS/STUDIO 061

Cheers, left: Sally (seated) puts Joan Collins to shame in this camel coat (wool/nylon/angora, £135, Marks & Spencer's). Leather handbag from Next (£39.99). Jean looks stunning in a pale blue jacket (wool, £85, Marks & Spencer's).

Elegant evenings, right: Sally toasts her new look in a cream, satin blouse (polyester/viscose, £49.99, Next) with navy trousers (polyester, £35, Marks & Spencer's). For a final sparkle, she wears beads from Next (£12.99).

Simply stylish, below: Irene chooses a dressy evening blouse (cupro, £44.99, Next) with mock pearls from Marks & Spencer's (£15). Pink skirt as before.

A classic combination, below right: Eric wears a tweed jacket (wool, £75, Marks & Spencer's). Brown cords as before. Jean chooses a trouser suit (wool, jacket £90, trousers £45, Marks & Spencer's) and finishes the look with a patterned scarf (viscose, £9.99, Next).



**ALVEMA**  
**Max.**  
**IS BACK!**

#### THE NEW LUXURY PUSHCHAIR FROM ALVEMA

Confidence comes with finding the right pushchair which combines comfort, control and ease of use, whatever the circumstances.

The new Max pushchair has been designed to provide seating comfort for your child, and at the same time to ensure maximum positioning and support.

Rugged construction on a standard lightweight frame helps you maintain balance and control, even when used on uneven ground.

The Max is adjustable to suit children from 1-12 years, and can be folded away easily for storage in the back or boot of a car. There is also a helpful choice of extra equipment included.

Alvema's new pushchair combines the practicality of earlier popular models of the Max with years of additional research and development to produce the most up to date in design and technical facility.

Alvema - Quite simply the best.

Send for a free colour brochure on the New Alvema Max.

Rainbow Rehab, The Coach House, 134 Purewell Christchurch, Dorset BH23 1EU  
Tel: 01202 481818 Fax: 01202 476688  
Sole UK distributors of Alvema Products.





## Opera

## The Jacobin

For the first time, either in Scotland or at the Edinburgh Festival, an opera was interpreted in sign language.

*The Jacobin*, performed by

Dvorak's *The Jacobin*: "An experience worth repeating."

the Scottish Opera, is one of Dvorak's most popular works.

In three acts it tells the story of Bohus returning to his native town with his foreign-born wife, Julie, and yearning to be reconciled with his father, Count Vilem. Because of wily cousin Adolf, the count mistakenly regards his son as a revolutionary – a Jacobin.

A police official, Filip, attempts to win over a choirmaster's daughter, Terinka, but she is in love with a village boy, Jiri, so Filip threatens him with conscription.

Adolf backs Filip and Bohus intervenes, who is arrested. The count hears Julie sing his late wife's favourite lullaby. She convinces him Bohus is innocent.



Edinburgh  
International FESTIVAL

Father and son are reconciled, Adolf's plots are thwarted and Terinka and Jiri marry at last.

This charmingly, romantic opera was superbly interpreted by Peter Llewellyn-Jones who has experience with the Royal National Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company at Stratford, and at the Barbican and on tour.

Although I am able to hear and enjoy music, I am not an opera lover. But Llewellyn-Jones' professionalism and ability to portray single-handedly (with both hands!) this fast-moving production made it an experience worth repeating.

Thelma Petty

## Theatre

## Children of a Lesser God

Written in 1979 by Mark Medoff and later turned into a successful film, *Children of A Lesser God* follows the lives of Sarah Norman, profoundly deaf from birth and James Leeds, a hearing man and speech therapist.

Originally produced in ASL (American Sign Language) the Hothouse Theatre company claimed to have "translated it into BSL (British Sign Language) making it accessible for all".

Sadly, this was not the case, as not every member of the cast signed and no interpreter was provided for the spoken parts. Throughout the performance members of the

*Continued on page 23*

# You can call us even if you're not able to drive.

- Call us to join or for membership information.
- You can register your Special Needs.
- You can request a free AA Guide for the disabled traveller.
- Plus information on other benefits available.



**Disability Helpline 0800 262 050**

You're the member not the car with AA personal membership.

# Flowerings from Scotland

DN's critics scoured Edinburgh to find the best, and worst, on offer at this year's festival

cast turned their backs on the audience while talking or signing. As a deaf person, I found this extremely frustrating and disappointing.

I appreciate the use of interpreters for hearing productions, but, as a sign language user, it is more satisfying watching an all-signing cast. A common language is shared, particularly if the play is about a deaf-related issue.

If, as was also claimed, one of the messages was to demonstrate the richness of BSL, it failed miserably by using an inexperienced hearing signer in the leading female part.

The company believes in the message the play portrays and has produced it in schools all over the country. I suggest they seriously consider the wrong impression it will give.

Hearing children must never think they can learn sign language without the contact of deaf people. The cast admitted they themselves had little involvement – one wonders about the producer's?

Thelma Petty

## Theatre

### A Little Older

The Clyde Unity Theatre presented John Binnie's *A Little Older*, a story about the special friendship between a straight woman and a gay man.

Isla, a minister's strong-willed daughter in her 20s, has been badly injured in a car crash, leaving her helpless and with memory loss. Sandy, her best gay pal, is determined she will remember – their relationship is too important to forget.

An upturned wheelchair, the only prop, lying in one corner of the stage, set the scene for what was a sensitive, humorous and poignant story, superbly acted by just two people.

Using flashbacks, Sandy tried to make Isla remember their first meeting in a primary school and their high school days: how Isla helped Sandy to realise his own sexuality and the last meal they had together.



Mari Binnie and Stephen Docherty in *A Little Older*

ROBIN MITCHELL

The play ended poignantly when Isla realised it was going to be a long road to recovery and asked Sandy to help her.

This interpreted performance gave access to deaf people, and the two interpreters' proficiency in portraying the two characters, acting alternately as children and adults, plus a range of emotions from wicked humour to deep anguish, helped to make this a pleasure to watch.

Thelma Petty

## Theatre

### Duet For One

"Where there is gross injury, the soul flees...". So begins the programme note for Double Edge Drama's production of *Duet For One* by Tom Kempinski at the Edinburgh Fringe.

The play claims to be about how a woman "comes to terms with the impact which multiple

sclerosis has had on every aspect of her life". It isn't.

"Will I play the violin again doctor?" was our heroine's question. "No sweet lady" was his answer, "but tell me, did you love your father when you were a girl?" Psychotherapy by numbers. Tragedy for beginners.

The writing was filled with clichés, mostly about women. Woman as harridan; danger to herself; slut; child; indecisive weakling. Then clichés about disability: tragic but brave; paralysed by hopelessness; manic denial; catatonic acceptance. Worst of all, in dramatic terms, were clichés about psychiatry. If psychiatrists have a trade union, they should protest.

Not only clichéd, but also a cop-out. The writer did not allow his female lead the dignity of a resolution. Stephanie, his ex-violin-playing victim, got to make a final "big speech" about contentment with the certainty of and uncertainties in life with a disability. Resolved to face the future, she was about to exit when Herr Doktor snatched the play's last words.

"...the soul flees...". I would have flown, except the three steps at the back door and 15 at the main door stopped me from fleeing anywhere.

Dougie Herd  
More reviews, page 24

We won't tell you about our quality, reliability or even customer care. Everybody else will.

In the JD Power & Associates/BBC Top Gear Customer Satisfaction Survey of over 10,000 UK car owners, Toyota were nominated best manufacturer. Our Corolla came top not only of its own class but of the whole survey for quality, reliability and customer satisfaction. The remarkably well equipped Corolla Sportif Automatic is available at just £9,949 and as with all Toyotas, is available through Motability. For more information on the entire Toyota range please complete the coupon or call us free on 0800 777555\*.

Please complete coupon and send to: Toyota (GB) Limited, Information Service, 12 Fenton Way, Basildon SS15 6SL.

Please send information on:  Hatchbacks  People carriers  Saloons  Van conversions

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_ Current Car: Make \_\_\_\_\_

Model \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Reg \_\_\_\_\_



*Motability*

\*The Toyota Information Service is operated on behalf of Toyota (GB) Ltd. Model illustrated Corolla CD Sdr at £11,742. Prices correct at time of going to press and include delivery charge and number plates.

THE AWARD WINNING CAR IN FRONT IS A  TOYOTA





AIDS ballet *Still/Here*: "A near-perfect fusion...Unmissable" SEAN HUDSON/KEITH BRAME

## Ena European Nursing Agency

### Specialists in providing live in carers for disabled people

Based in Hertfordshire, the European Nursing Agency can provide live in carers and Nurses throughout the UK.

We are dedicated to placing the most suitable carer to meet your needs and fit in with your own personal lifestyle.

From as little as one weekend to a long term commitment we would love to help you out.

Give Clare a call on:

**St Albans (01727) 850600**

Professional Care With The Personal Touch

Licensed by the Local Authority and Department of Employment



## TEST VALLEY MOBILITY

INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF STAIR LIFTS,  
HOISTS, VERTICAL LIFTS AND DOOR OPENERS  
TELEPHONE: (01794) 367808

## Dance

### Still/Here

*Still/Here*, choreographed by American dancer Bill T Jones and performed by the Bill T Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, has been called the first AIDS Ballet. It has also been described as morally indefensible and artistically unjustifiable. I think it's brilliant.

The life-affirming beauty of the piece has its origins in *Survival Workshops*, which Jones, who is HIV positive, described as an "experiment to see what, if anything, could be collected from the experiences of people living with life-threatening illness that would inform a dance/theatre work".

On stage in Edinburgh, he showed video images and real life testimonies, using breathtaking light, darkness and colour, mesmeric music and exquisite movement. This was a near-perfect fusion of sight and sound, art and life, song and dance.

Take "Section 6". It sounded so prosaic and dull. But to haunting music, one dancer began to walk his line with measured steps. Others danced back and forth across the line. Yet he continued. Some took his hand to join him, walking their own smooth lines, others never connected at all.

An AIDS ballet that affirms living? Look for yourself if you get a chance. Unmissable.

Dougie Herd

## Theatre

### Wheelchair Willie

How can I convey the awesome horror of Alan Brown's *Wheelchair Willie*, performed at Edinburgh by the Welsh College of Music and Drama? What could reveal the utter irrelevance, staggering tedium and complete waste of time of this attempt to murder theatre?

This play was woeful and it had nothing to say about



disability. "Willie" was not really a participant in the drama; his character (that's a euphemism for the cardboard cut-out characterisation we witnessed) was a device to show you how bad everyone else is and how horrible their situation becomes.

We saw characters who shouted jokes about Willie's incontinence, said the "F" word a lot, and (like the best of Greek tragedy, which this was not), cut out Willie's tongue off stage.

We were led to understand that these must be tragic-comic figures in a horribly bad situation. But, like sensible horses, we should refuse to

drink this poisonous brew.

What we got, though, in a venue with one step up and two steps down was a very badly written play, embarrassingly poor performances and a stunningly low set of production values.

If you ever have the misfortune to get close to *Wheelchair Willie*, do yourself and the rest of humanity a favour – find him a proper job.

Dougie Herd

## Dance

### Psst

Company Pyke at the Edinburgh Fringe has gathered publicity, not all of it justifiable.

*Psst* is entertaining and asks questions that are elegant, witty, energetic, sometimes serious and always intelligent. But journalists have deployed their best artistic taste by asking the unaskable: "How can that man dance? He's got no legs."



*Psst*: engaging ensemble piece

Company Pyke are three women and two men. Self-deprecating humour opened the dance, with the women sitting on the floor discussing blisters on feet, smelly socks and the tedium of limbering up.

When the dancing started, it was exuberant, with the dancers quickly filling the space. They posed questions about our bodies: how we make judgements and what we do with them. There were perceptive commentaries on the ways disabled people can be claimed as public property.

Company Pyke dances humorous rings around ideas of conformity, offering graceful interpretations of sexuality, disability, friendship, rivalry, belonging and exclusion. It made you laugh and think.

It was just a shame that the small space restricted their enthusiasm. That apart, one could only enjoy this well-crafted, articulate and engaging ensemble piece.

Dougie Herd

## EASY MOBILITY (DISABILITY EQUIPMENT)

8-8a CHURCH STREET, BRIDGETOWN, CANNOCK, STAFFS WS11 3DB  
TEL: 01543 504117

57-59 JEFFREYS ROAD, TYE GREEN, CRESSING, BRAINTREE, ESSEX CM7 8JQ  
TEL: 01376 320133

Wheelchairs, Scooters, Walking aids, Orthopaedic & Lifter/Recliner Chairs, Hoists, Commodes, Stairlifts, Etc...



FREE INSURANCE ON ALL POWERCHAIRS & SCOOTERS

0% INTEREST EASY TERMS AVAILABLE ON ALL USED POWERCHAIRS AND SCOOTERS  
POWERCHAIRS FROM: £750.00  
SCOOTERS FROM: £650.00  
MANUALS FROM: £75.00  
HIRE FROM: £2.00

Servicing, Repairs, Batteries, Tyres, Puncture proofing, Upholstery, Home demo's, Information & Advice

REMEMBER: IF WE DON'T HAVE THE POWERCHAIR YOU NEED WE CAN GET IT. IF YOUR NEEDS ARE NOT CATERED FOR WE CAN ADAPT OR MANUFACTURE TO YOUR REQUIREMENTS UP TO 35ST CAPACITY

FOR A FREE HOME DEMONSTRATION DETACH & RETURN COMPLETED PANEL TO YOUR NEAREST EASY MOBILITY BRANCH OR PHONE FOR DETAILS

Mr/Mrs/Ms \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in: Wheelchairs/Scooters/Stairlifts/Other

MOBILITY IS EASY WITH EASY MOBILITY DN 10/95

## Film

Michael Turner



The American South has been the backdrop for many a fine film. *Gone with the Wind*, *In the Heat of the Night* and *Mississippi Burning* combined heat, male bigotry and racial tension to produce some of the best drama to come out of Hollywood. Unfortunately, British director Terence Davies misses all these qualities in *The Neon Bible*.

The film is set in the 1930s and 40s. It follows the life of David (Jacob Tierney) from the arrival of his glamorous Aunt Mae, who comes to live with his family when he is ten, to the tragic night he leaves home at the age of 15.

Along the way, his family disintegrates. His domineering father is killed in the war and his mother, Sarah (Diana Scarwid), develops a mental illness. David grows more and more attached to Aunt Mae (Gena Rowlands).

The style is a curious mixture of strong cinematic imagery, with theatrical and literary qualities. This is interesting to watch, but really fails to carry the story told by the film.

Davies admits that his films are not strong on plot. The problem with *The Neon Bible* is that it lacks on conversation.

The characters are two-dimensional and Sarah's

# The Neon Bible



Glamorous Aunt Mae (Gena Rowlands) in an ambiguous tale of the American deep south

mental health problems are never really explored. They seem to be explained as the result of the violence she suffers at the hands of her husband, Frank, but this is contradicted by her happiness when he goes to fight in the war, and the decline in her state of mind when he is killed.

This is not implausible. Mental health is a complex issue and bland explanations are unhelpful. Davies sees ambiguity as one of the qualities of his films.

The ambiguity in *The Neon Bible* only makes you question why the characters do some drastic and unbelievable things.

The characters lack explanation and exploration. Their motivations simply lead to confusion and a completely baffling climax.

## Look out for

A signed performance of *The Glass Menagerie* at the Donmar Warehouse, London on 12 October. Tel/minicom (Mondays only) 0171-704 1984.

Kids drama and music workshops in Hackney. Tel: 0181-986 6714.

**KEY TO VIDEO TOP FIVE:**  
N: No subtitles    Subtitles

## Video top five

1. **LEON** (Touchstone): Assassin's relationship with young girl.

2. **JUST CAUSE** (Warner): Sean Connery stars in this action-packed thriller.

3. **SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION** (Fox Guild): Prison drama starring Tim Robbins. (N)

4. **STARGATE**: Kurt Russell and James Spader fight Egyptian space aliens. (N)

5. **TIMECOP** (CIC): Van Damme high kicks through time.

## WINGED FELLOWSHIP



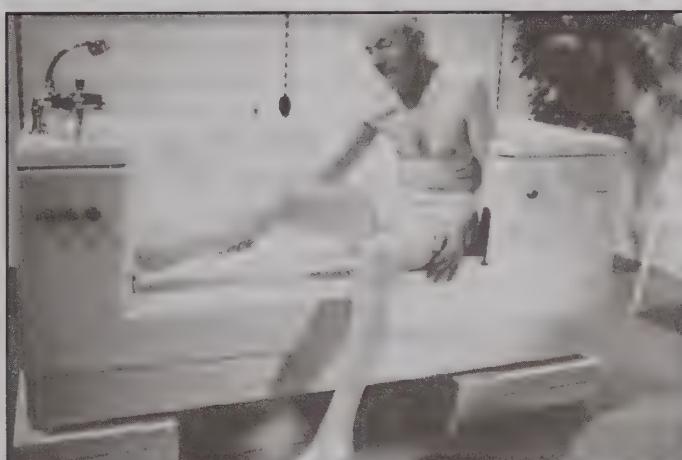
### A different sort of charity

RESPIRE CARE AND HOLIDAYS for severely physically disabled people and their carers at five centres. Full care is provided 24 hours a day by qualified staff and volunteers. Guests can enjoy a change from the usual routine while carers can choose to join them or take a break elsewhere. Special Interest Holidays include Garden Tours, Sports, Art, Music, Craft Weeks and many others. More adventurous holidays in the UK and overseas are also available.

For a brochure please contact:  
The Winged Fellowship Trust, Angel House,  
20-32 Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD.  
Tel: 0171-833 2594. Fax: 0171-278 0370.  
Registered Charity No. 295072.



## ELYSEE - Bathing made simple



The ELYSEE "Easy Access" Bath makes bathing the pleasure it should be for the less able.

Both patient and carer friendly

- Electronically controlled side lowering door
- Quick filling from thermostatic taps
- Pumped waste empties in 30 seconds

**SEE US AT NAIDEX '95 STAND 157H**

NOVA CARE SERVICES LTD

14 Lower Station Road, Billingshurst,  
West Sussex RH14 9SX  
Tel: (01403) 786400  
Fax: (01403) 786500



## Television

Chris Davies

**Challenge**  
Anneka (BBC1, 7 August) had a project which was excellent in theory, but misfired in practice.



Anneka Rice was given the task of staging a concert of deaf arts in 27 hours – she even had to find an audience to fill the Royal Albert Hall.

Of course, the public should be given the opportunity to experience the talent and variety that can be found in deaf arts, but so worthy is this aim that it deserves to be done in the time allowed.

The show was scheduled for a Friday afternoon – little wonder, then, that the audience was not asked to pay to attend, but this timing also affected the numbers of people who could be there.

The end featured highlights from the performance. From what was visible and audible of the audience reaction, the hall was far from full.

Therefore, it was a bit of a cheat to say the project was completed and, more importantly, an opportunity to mount properly a performance that would have been a showcase for deaf performers, and to earn some money for the Royal National Institute for Deaf People was lost.

The "tragic but brave" stereotype still dominates tv. *QED: The Fall and Rise of Sargeant "Reggie" Perrin* (BBC1, 29 August) featured a man impaired with brain damage struggling to climb a mountain. His mountaineering colleagues spoke about him with awe and the whole sway of the film was to turn Perrin into a heroic figure. This was added to by the fact that he failed to get to the top.

The second such documentary was about the surviving half of a pair of Siamese twins. *Eilish: Life Without Katie* (ITV, 29 August) had a photogenic central character simply determined to get on with life.

Although I preferred this to "QED", the clear hidden agenda of the programme-makers was to label the little girl "hero" when what she was really doing was surviving. When will programme-makers realise that role models are not the same as superheroes?

Although the current series of "People First" is only halfway run as I write, I cannot praise too highly the originality of presentation of Sian Vasey's examination of the inflated cost of electronic aids, *We Have The Technology* (C4, 2 September).

# Tune in, turn on

Rod Hermeston reports on what the new *Disability Today* will offer

*Disability Today*, the new tv programme on disability goes on air in October.

The first episode of the monthly series will go out on BBC2's open access slot at 4.45am on Thursday 5 October. Each programme will be repeated throughout the month to ensure maximum viewing. The producers hope that people will record it on videos.

The series will include some old faces and some new – the first episode giving a taste of things to come.

Veteran radio and tv

personality, Peter White, who presents Radio Four's *In Touch* and is the BBC's disability correspondent, will be the series' editor.

"Working with people new to the field is perhaps the most exciting thing. Hopefully by learning the skills, they will get the opportunity to go into the whole range of television and radio," says Peter.

In the first programme Peter will present an item on the European Disabled Swimming Championships at Perpignan, France. Footage of a disabled

British swimmer breaking a European record will highlight the emphasis on achievement.

Co-presenter Kim Tserkezie (pronounced "sir-care-zee") will be a new face to viewers, having won a competition to present the programme (see profile opposite).

In the first edition, Kim will focus on arts and leisure against the backdrop of the Great North Run in Newcastle.

## Regional element

She will interview disabled competitors and the winner of the disabled section. The programme's regional element will be important.

The third presenter will be Heather Clark, who will present a regular slot giving advice on benefits.

Heather, 34, from Leeds, did some work on *Disability Agenda*, the pilot disability programme that preceded *Disability Today*.

She is a freelance journalist and has done research work for



Peter White: emphasis will be on achievement

Yorkshire Television in its documentaries department and on its newsdesk.

Her interests are wide, from parachuting to tapestry. She is also a cat lover, owning two cats. She is affected by thalidomide and a wheelchair user.

What does she think *Disability Today* will do for disabled people? "It means they



Heather Clark: cat lover giving us the benefit of her advice

will all become insomniacs," she jokes – a video recorder will certainly come in handy.

"I hope it will be part of a learning process for everyone. Hopefully it will go beyond just the disabled viewer, to carers and professionals, and perhaps people who don't know an awful lot about disability may learn from it."

The programme is the result of a partnership between Scope, the Benefits Agency, the BBC and The Same Production Company. It will provide information about leisure, work, education, benefits and other issues. Up-to-date news will be provided by DN.

Martin Davison, producer of The Same Production Company, feels the programme will be interactive, receiving feedback from disabled viewers over text phones, the Internet, telephones, post and videos.

"Because of this it is difficult to say what the highlights will be. We are hoping viewers will come back and tell us what they want."

He is looking forward to working with Peter White again, having collaborated with him on *Same Difference* for Channel 4. "Someone said we'd

never get a programme on Channel 4 on disability and it seemed a challenge. We eventually made more than 75.

"I feel very strongly about disabled people's issues. They are very similar to those of many disenfranchised minority groups throughout the world."

## Powerful backers

James Rye, head of public relations at Scope, first put the proposal for funding to the Benefits Agency. The agency had previously funded *Disability Agenda*, after encouragement from the BBC.

"It was felt that Scope, as the biggest disability organisation in the country, should take on the role of service provider, which was attractive to the Benefits Agency and the BBC," he says.

It would be nice to see the programme given prime-time screening, he admits, and hopes for more series in the future.

"We will take things a step at a time. If the opportunity came along for the programme to go out in the early evening we would go for it."

The theme music for the show has been composed by disabled composer Chris Ball.

## DON'T BELIEVE YOUR EYES!

This is a Multifunctional Nursing Bed with height adjustment.



**BaKare Beds**  
This Volker Home Nursing Bed from BaKare Beds is fully adjustable to 'Sit U up' at the touch of a button, and with motorised height adjustment to 'stand U up', or for Nursing.

Unit 17, Bell Park, Bell Close, Plympton, PLYMOUTH PL7 4JH. Tel: 01 752 34 22 22

# Disability Today

**Disability Today is a new monthly television programme for disabled people, their families and carers, in fact anyone who has an interest in disability issues.**

The programme will provide information about leisure, work, education, benefits and current issues in an accessible and entertaining format.

Programmes will be screened at 4.45am during October through April 1996, so get your video machines ready!

Check Radio Times & Ceefax for details.



## The Country House Hotel For Disabled People

**Park House**  
SANDRINGHAM

Park House, situated in beautiful surroundings on the Sandringham Royal Estate, provides superb holiday facilities throughout the year

- Award winning hotel
- All physical disabilities accommodated
- Quality care available at no additional cost
- Relatives and companions equally welcome
- Low winter prices

**Send for brochure and tariff**  
Park House Sandringham,  
King's Lynn, Norfolk PE35 6EH  
Telephone: 01485 543000  
Fax: 01485 540663  
A Registered Charity



Offering choice and opportunity to people with disabilities

# Smile, you're on candid camera

Kim Tserkezie beat off 80 hopefuls to present *Disability Today* (see left). Who is she? Rod Hermeston found out.

Bright and bubbly Kim Tserkezie has been given a chance of a lifetime to break into television, something which until recently she never believed she could do.

Kim, 22, will co-present *Disability Today* with Peter White, BBC disability correspondent and presenter of Radio Four's *In Touch*.

"It's particularly exciting for me because I've always had a love of the media. And I will be combining it with civil rights work," she says.

"It's like a dream come true. I can't believe that I'll be getting paid for it as well."

Kim has lived in the north-east all her life, though her father and maternal grandmother are Greek. She lives in Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne.

She is a part-time psychology student at Sunderland University, but also spends time campaigning for civil rights.

In 1994 she set up a group in the north-east called Disabled Women's Action and Support. It has already worked with Newcastle Women's Aid on the issue of domestic violence against disabled women, and plans to campaign for improved transport for all disabled people, emphasising disabled women and safety.

Before becoming a student, Kim worked for two years as an administrator at Bridge, a project to improve training and education opportunities for women. She also took part in a sister project, Bridging Out, which provides confidence-building courses for women.

"I was very fortunate to get a job on Bridge after finishing my A-levels. But after two years I decided to concentrate on my degree and civil rights work."

Jenny McKenna a community development worker on Bridge, thinks Kim has a rosy future. "This will just be the start. Within weeks of her coming to work with us as an administrator, we realised her talents went far beyond that."

Kim heard about the *Disability Today* job through DN. "I decided to apply, but I didn't even think I'd have a chance of getting an interview."

She is only half way through her degree at the moment, but plans to take a break to

present *Disability Today*.

That will make it easier for her to look after her six-month-old son, Jay.

"Because of all the barriers out there, things are not made

very easy. But I employ personal assistants 24 hours a day. They are not childminders, they help me do all the physical tasks of looking after Jay. It's quite a new system which has



Kim Tserkezie and son Jay: "I would never say that I have a disability"

been introduced in Newcastle.

"I was able to negotiate the details with them and it has worked out very well."

She hopes to break into television full time, and do both disability and mainstream programmes. She wants to continue her campaigning work.

She will work from Newcastle, travelling to London when necessary.

Kim has been officially disabled since she was two, but went to mainstream schools.

"Fortunately I had parents who felt strongly that I should be integrated into the local community. By the time I was ready to go to comprehensive school, I was able to speak for myself about why I wanted to stay in mainstream schooling."

Though she uses a wheelchair, she sees the details of her

disability as irrelevant. "I have an impairment which society can't cope with. I experience disability as a result of society not developing all the support mechanisms which I need to lead an independent life."

"I would never say that I have a disability, since disability is

**It's like a dream come true. I can't believe that I'll be getting paid for it**

not an individual issue. It is a social issue, but representations of disability are always individualised.

"I think *Disability Today* will be a way of sharing information, which is important, and sharing our identity as disabled people, which is empowering."

**Challenge**  
THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER REPORTING DISABILITY SPORT

**Whatever your sporting interest you should read Challenge.**

**Challenge** is the new colour monthly newspaper reporting on all aspects of disability sport. Results, Previews, Interviews, Competitions all you want to read.

**SUBSCRIBE NOW**  
only £15.00  
(£25 overseas)

Please find enclosed my cheque/postal order for £15.00

Name (BLOCK LETTERS please) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to:  
Challenge, Knightswood Publishing, FREEPOST RG3260, Reading, RG1 8ZZ

DN 10/95

## Mobility with more style per gallon

Off to Ascot, Henley, or Sainsbury's, the Constables Peugeot 806 gives you that extra special something. Sophistication – it's not a word one usually associates with mobility vehicles, then you haven't seen what the 806 gives you. Although the 806 looks nothing like a mobility vehicle, this spacious people carrier can be equipped to hold a wheelchair in the front. Fully loaded she'll take up to six people in perfect comfort. Constables new 806 offers standard or adaptations to suit your need. Electric windows and front seat airbags come as standard. So does the power steering. But there are options too. Take your pick from air conditioning, eight-speaker wraparound sound system and CD player. ABS braking will bring you to the safest halt possible,

and the immobiliser alarm will deter any stranger whose interest in your 806 gets out of line. Powered by two-litre petrol or 1.9-litre turbo diesel, the Constables 806 offers comfort and style with pace and space. Constables 806. Eye-catching, Practical, Sophisticated.



CONSTABLES LTD • DEPT DN • FREEPOST (BR1032) • WESTHAM • PEVENSEY • EAST SUSSEX • BN24 5BR • TELEPHONE: (01323) 767574 • FAX: (01323) 767603

**Constables**  
LTD

# Now why didn't I think of that?

Sometimes the simplest ideas are the most effective. Alison Miller looks at a few designed to help you work, rest and play.

With a little imagination and a lot of hard work, a simple idea can be transformed into something really valuable.

**Big Keys** are a range of basic keyboards designed to help all young children use computers.

With their straightforward format, they are particularly useful for children with some types of motor disability, or learning difficulty, according to the manufacturers, KCS.

The keys are bigger than the ones on a standard keyboard. They are multi-coloured and arranged alphabetically, so kids can have fun as they learn. The keyboards are also hard wearing with rigid, steel frames and heavy-duty keys.

If you want to use a standard keyboard at the same time, there is an adaptor which provides an extra socket, enabling input from both keyboards.

Phillip Revell, headteacher of Glade Primary School in Suffolk, likes the idea. "We have children with learning difficulties and they may find it difficult to distinguish between letters. Having bigger keys can make it easier." They have a Big Keys keyboard in use at the



Get a grip: the Good Grips range of kitchen utensils

school. "The teachers who have worked with it told me they are very pleased with it". £85 plus VAT. Co-Pilot adaptor costs £25.49 plus VAT. Tel: (01703) 584314.

Long before parents are looking for computer equipment, they need to find a suitable cot. This can be difficult for parents with mobility problems, where traditional designs are not necessarily accessible.

The Bed-Side-Bed is based on

a traditional cot design but with one side removed. It adjusts to the height of the parents' bed and can act as an extension to it. Safer than sharing a bed with the baby, parents can feed their child in the night without having to get up.

DN asked expectant mother Rachel Wilson what she thought of the idea: "It is brilliant. I could see it would be helpful to a lot of people."

But she didn't think it would be useful in her case because she needs a lot of space to transfer from wheelchair to bed. "I can see it as being very useful for people who are a bit more ambulant than I am." (See page 19 for more on Rachel's pregnancy.) The Bed-Side-Bed Company, tel: 0181-989 8683.

If you have trouble getting to grips with the housework, **Good Grips** are for you. They are a range of kitchen utensils with handles which, according to the manufacturers, General Housewares Corporation, makes gripping easier.

The handles are made of Santoprene – a rubbery material that insulates against hot and cold. They have "fingerprint



A big help: children's learning made easier with Big Keys

softspots" which mould to your grip and cushion your hand, as well as a soft, rounded end which absorbs pressure while you work. There is a wide range of utensils, from cheese graters to zesters to make cooking a breeze. Available from some branches of Sainsbury's, Savacentre, John Lewis and Boots or tel: (01282) 428977.

#### Old ideas with a twist

The **Wireless Door Chime** from Uni-com can be used as a sporting aid for people who are visually impaired, according to Mike Coleman of Linden Lodge School for the Blind in Wimbledon, South London.

It consists of a transmitter and a receiver which are both cordless. The chimes can be heard 50 metres away and can be used to indicate the location of cricket stumps or a football goal. £15.95 from Robert Dyas and other large DIY stores.

The RNIB produces lots of equipment for people who are

visually impaired. A useful tool for ramblers and roammers is its **tactile compass**. This has a raised arrow pointing north, while the south, east and west points are marked in braille with their initial letter. Each 30 degree position is marked with a dot. £13.13 for anyone who is visually impaired, £33.86 for others. Tel: (01345) 023153.

Returning to kids, **Adjustabilisers** are, literally, adjustable stabilisers. Designed by the father of a child with cerebral palsy, they work like ordinary bicycle stabilisers, but the settings can be altered gradually as the child's balance improves.

The idea is that the child can improve his or her balance over a period of time, rather than having the shock of going from full support to none at all.

Designer David Good says that the stabilisers helped his son Jeremy learn to ride, until he was eventually able to discard them altogether. £18.75. Tel: (01248) 713624.



## A NEW CONCEPT FOR POSTURAL MANAGEMENT AT HOME

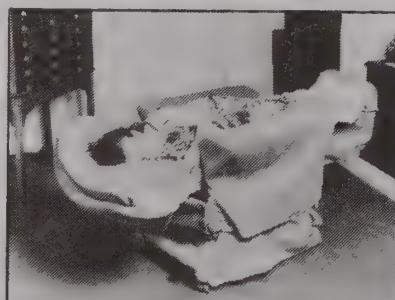
It is recognised by therapists that people who are unable to move well can be at risk of developing an unconventional body shape. The therapeutic management of a symmetrical posture is recommended in the effort to prevent these problems.

In a typical domestic environment there is limited space for equipment for postural management.

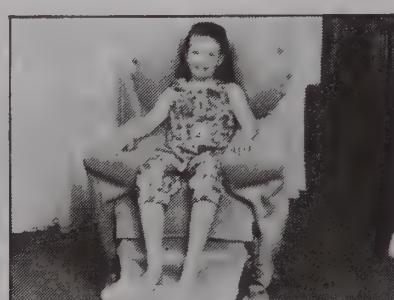
Our amazing new **SYMMETRIKIT TILT CHAIR** combines the functions of our standard chairs with a tilt mechanism which allows the chair to be used for many positions, including:-



PRONE



SIDE LYING



SITTING

Post our coupon today for further information

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

TELEPHONE .....

SEND TO: Symmetrikid Ltd, The Sharratts, School Lane, Hopwas, Tamworth, Staffordshire B78 3AD. Tel: 01827-69992

DN 10/95



Adjustabilisers: a balanced approach to cycling



Jeremy Good riding a bike after using Adjustabilisers

Stuart Taylor goes to college in Swansea this October. Over the coming months, he will be guiding *DN* readers through the highs and lows of student life with a regular diary.

Hi! My name is Stuart Taylor and I am going to be writing a monthly diary about college life. I am 18 years old and enjoy life to the full.

I was born with cerebral palsy and this mainly affects my mobility and, to a lesser extent, my speech.

Having said that, it has not stopped me from getting around or making my voice heard. Some people might say my voice is heard too often!

I live at home with my parents and sister in south Wales and I am fanatical about rugby and sport in general. I live in a small town called Gorseinon just outside Swansea.

My main aim in life is to become a (sports) journalist. I feel by writing this column I have taken the first step toward that ambition.

In my spare time I enjoy socialising with friends and going to nightclubs and pubs. I

# College chronicles

A slightly apprehensive Stuart Taylor gears himself up for freshers' week and student life

also love to keep active, which I do by lifting weights.

I have always been to mainstream schools. I can remember thinking when I first went to secondary school: "This is too much like hard work." I went on to obtain four GCSEs, and all that hard work and endless nagging from my parents was worth the effort.

## Testing times

Then it was time for the real test: going to further education college in Gorseinon. I studied for a General National Vocational Qualification in business studies, and was accepted on to the advanced level after applying for the foundation level.

Going to college was the most frightening experience of my life. I had always been fairly dependent on my close friends and they were not going to be there. I was very worried about tackling the stairs, as I can get up them on my own but I can't get down them. It felt a bit peculiar being in a situation where I had to rely on strangers



Stuart Taylor: confident of coping, but he will go on living at home

to help me down the stairs.

By the end of the second week there were a number of people offering help, the only problem then was which one to choose. Even this soon became no problem as I just went for the arm of the most attractive girl!

College has helped me become much more confident

and independent. I went onto complete the course and obtain a merit grade overall.

I start at the Swansea Institute of Higher Education in October. There I will be studying for a Higher National Diploma in Business Information Technology.

When I went for the interview

I was apprehensive because the building was fairly old and all there seemed to be were steps and flights of stairs, though the college has also made plans for extra hand-rails on the stairs.

## Worried

I would not be kidding myself if I said that I was not worried or apprehensive about starting this new course.

However, I do feel that I am much better equipped. At Gorseinon College I learned to stand on my own two feet.

I will go on living at home, mainly because I prefer to be in familiar surroundings and also, if the truth be known, because I would only be living on chips and chocolate.

I have applied for a voice-activated computer to assist me with my studies and Swansea Institute have been very helpful about supplying this.

This is, of course, before I have even started. All I hope now is that I (or they) know what I am letting myself in for! I will keep you informed.

# SAFETY FIRST

**FREE**

ADVANCED DRIVING  
LESSONS WITH EVERY  
PURCHASE

## PROTECTION AGAINST FIRE

We guarantee the use of fire retardant materials.

## PROTECTION AGAINST POSSIBLE PASSENGER INJURY

The frame, sides and roof are specially strengthened: we are also rear passenger safety belt and restraint specialists.

## PROTECTION AGAINST RUST

We use only zinc coated or treated steel.

Prices from

**£9995**

+VAT  
IF APPLICABLE



**RENAULT**

Easy access by folding  
lightweight ramp,  
hydraulic lift or  
lowering suspension.



### RENAULT MASTER

5 wheelchairs or 15 seated passengers or a combination of the two.



### RENAULT TRAFIC

3 wheelchairs or 12 seated passengers or a combination of the two.



### RENAULT EXTRA FREEDOM & FINESSE

3-5 adults plus a wheelchair passenger.

*Atlas*  
CONVERSIONS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL FRANK GREENSMITH, TEL: 01705 756265 OR CONTACT YOUR NEAREST RENAULT DEALER

# A true romance

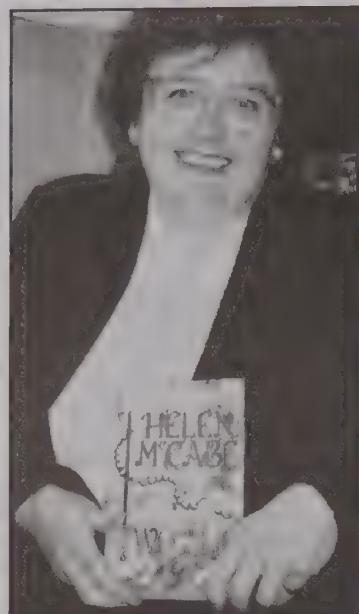
Helen McCabe was forced into writing by disability. Now she sells in W H Smith. Nic Paton found out about her and (right) her latest novel.

How do you become a novelist? This question has to be the bane of most novelists' lives. In Helen McCabe's case, the answer is clear: start young, be forced into it by disability and then just write, write, write.

She began writing at seven, and had poetry published on the radio by the time she was 20. "But then I did not do any serious writing until I retired from teaching in 1982 because of my arthritis."

She spent time in hospital, and now uses a wheelchair. She also has a lung condition that affects her mobility.

"A friend of mine said, 'why don't you start writing again, what about romantic fiction?'. I knew nothing about romantic fiction – my master's degree was in 18th century literature. But I actually sat down at the



Helen McCabe: struck lucky

kitchen table and decided to write a romantic story."

She struck lucky, having her very first story published in the now defunct magazine *Red Letter*. Then, in 1987, while convalescing after hospital treatment, she discovered Princess Caraboo: the true story of how lowly maid Mary Willcocks fooled 1817 society to become an exotic princess.

"It's remained a mystery for 200 years. We know who she was, but not how she learnt to

be a princess. It was a fantastic thing that she was able to write and speak her own language, even in her sleep.

"After reading about it I had a fantastic dream. And there, beside my bed was the synopsis. I have no idea how I wrote it. But I sat down and wrote 60 pages virtually in two days.

"When I started to do the proper research I found that lots of the things in the dream were true. Particularly about her lover Jem, who did exist. Now, I know it was a common name in those days, but is it likely that I would have chosen that name in my dream?"

The book was taken up by W H Smith, a rare feat for a relatively unknown author. With Smith's in the bag, all the other major book retailers followed suit, and since April *Two for a Lie* has sold a healthy 2,000 copies.

She views how she was forced into writing as, in a way, a godsend. "It is an obsession. I have a camera in my head, even when I am talking to people.

"I only wished I had carried on at 20 and not done all the other things I have done. But I suppose that is experience."

## Two for a Lie

By Helen McCabe  
£6.99, Peacock Publishing,  
tel: (01905) 754755. From  
W H Smith and bookshops

When we first meet Mary Willcocks, the heroine of Helen McCabe's *Two for a Lie*, she is battling her way home across Dartmoor against the "merciless sou'wester...twisting the trees into eerie monsters".

Just ten pages later she has been nearly raped by the evil Humphrey Moon, rescued by the dashing Jem Farr, who has "all the scent of a gentleman; soap, leather, tobacco and perfumed linen", and set on a path that will lead her through 1800s England to become the mysterious Princess Caraboo.

*Two for a Lie* is, quite literally, a "bodice ripper" of a book. ("She looked down at her dress and stiffened. Humphrey had ripped her bodice when he had sought her breasts.")

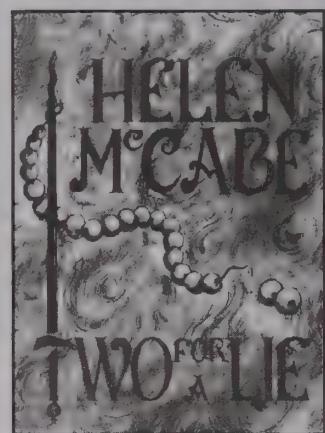
The characters are either

unreconstructedly bad or reassuringly good; true love, threatened by circumstance and society, has to fight to prevail.

But once you are reading it, it is hard to put down. The story romps along at a fair old pace.

The plotting is effective and, though the second part does lose some pace, it holds you right up to the climax.

## Free offer for DN readers!



The first six lucky DN readers to write in can get free copies of Helen McCabe's *Two for a Lie*! Mark entries "October Book Offer".

The only serious flaw, especially when you consider that it is written by an author who is disabled, is that, by and large, the villains either are, or become, disabled.

When Humphrey Moon is disfigured, he is described as "a blind and helpless cripple". The scheming gypsy Shamus Kelly only has one arm, and Jem's philandering father, Lord Castel, has syphilis.

It is a pity that an author with a close knowledge of disability should resort to such a flawed stylistic device.

## QUEST 88 continues to extend an already comprehensive range of POSTURE CONTROL THERAPY PRODUCTS..... WHY?..... WE LISTEN TO YOU

POSTURE WALKERS – the Posture Control Walker has been available for seven years through Quest 88, during which time Quest has developed a great understanding of the users requirements. "HANDS ON" involvement and personal assessment involving many Therapists, has enabled us to develop a wide range of accessories to suit a broad spectrum of user groups. Accessories include – Hip Symmetry Pads, Vertical Hand-holds, Forearm Gutters, Silent Traction Rear Wheels, Traction Front Wheels, Swivel Front Wheels, Rear Legs with ferrules, Coloured Frame option and even a showerproof cape.

### IMPORTANT NEWS

The new Mark II Posture Control Walker incorporates a third 'U' tube which improves the torsional rigidity of its frame thus improving longevity of use, the walkers are available with an anodised aluminium finish, making scratches less obvious than other finishes – however, a colour finish option is available. The swivel front wheels must only be used with users who have extremely good lateral control/Posture walkers are designed to fold very compact without any HAND BAR PROTRUSIONS, also the benefits of individual leg height adjustment – a) allow the walker to be tilted, changing the centre of gravity of the user which in turn can produce some beneficial changes, b) enable the Walker format to be altered to four wheel, two wheel, steerable swivel front wheel options – c) replacement units are easy to interchange and finally, the standard model fitted with nylon wheels (the NOISY ONES!!!!) – unfortunately it is necessary for many children to use this type of wheel – the wheel offers minimal traction enabling the user to CHANGE DIRECTION with EASE.



ASTON STREET, SHIFNAL, SHROPSHIRE TF11 8DW TEL: (01952) 463050 FAX: (01952) 463077



# 'I ramble far from the noise and hassle of town'

(8) Wonderful scenery, peacefulness and relaxation: the great outdoors has much to offer disabled people, writes Jim Barbone

I started my rambling days as an able-bodied person many years ago and walked across many parts of Britain.

At a time when public footpaths were poorly maintained or rarely signposted, the pleasure of finding one's own way through the countryside on public rights of way, far from the noise and hassle of town and workplace, with time to think



Jim with dog Tony: being in a wheelchair does not end rambling

in peace and quiet, was fascinating to me, a "townie" born and bred.

My accident in 1985 left me spinaly injured. As I lay looking at the ceiling in The Duke of Cornwall Spinal Unit at Odstock, Salisbury, I wondered whether I would ever walk again and prayed hard I would.

## Determination

Thankfully, because of the excellent treatment I received, my prayers and (I was told) my determination and fitness, five months later I left hospital walking, though with partial tetraplegia and arthritis. Later I developed spinal compression.

Happily, my rambling continues, although, of course, more curtailed than it was.

At 70, I find myself a semi-ambulant wheelchair-assisted rambler, fortunately still able to drive, and using my elbow crutch.

With the assistance of my wheelchair, I can still get to many pleasant countryside spots to enjoy the sights and sounds of the four seasons.

Can rambling be practised by the majority of disabled people? Yes! Yes! Yes!

I believe that, with common sense and caution, rambling can be a very pleasant, inexpensive past-time.

The great outdoors has so much to offer disabled people. Wonderful changing scenery, peace of mind, quiet enjoyment and relaxation and a sense of achievement.

This perhaps might lead you on to an interest in the vagaries of the weather and nature, a knowledge of trees, wild flowers, small animals, birds. Rambling can give you a feeling of freedom, fitness and self-reliance.

Severely disabled people or wheelchair users are more difficult to accommodate, obviously, because of mobility and transport difficulties.

## A hobby for all

However, I strongly believe that if access to the countryside is improved, rambling can become, truly, a hobby for all.

Many country parks, local parks, nature reserves, coastal promenades and seafront walks, canal towpaths and disused railways provide easy access and facilities.

There are also thousands of miles of public rights of way for more energetic people, for instance people with learning disabilities and deaf or partially sighted people.

Many counties or local authorities provide guided walks' programmes, and have a wide selection of walks to suit most people's abilities.

County authority or local authority country parks units often offer facilities and special walks by park rangers, if requested by groups of disabled visitors.

You can find the names and addresses of your country parks and providers in your local library, town council, community service or tourist information centre.

## Getting easier

Rambling is becoming easier. The main reason is the BT Countryside for All project now in its second year.

This national project has aroused broad national interest and raised the profile of disabled people's countryside aspirations and expectations.

It is managed by the Fieldfare Trust with an advisory group of many of Britain's most influential organisations for the countryside, environment, country landowners, disabled people, sport, recreation, leisure and access.

The impetus to make the countryside accessible to disabled people should and must come from us. Keep asking your own organisations, and local Ramblers' Association questions and press for progress reports.

With a bit of pressure, it is possible for everybody to enjoy rambling.



Jim looking down towards the Kew Railway Bridge, west London. "A feeling of freedom, fitness and self-reliance."

*This year is the Ramblers' Association's diamond jubilee. To celebrate, the association has been organising tours, walks and events all over the country aimed at attracting disabled people. One of the highlights was a wheelchair dash up Mount Snowdon in June (DN July).*

*However, most local associations will hold walks every week. The association also campaigns to make the countryside more accessible. For details of forthcoming events, contact your local group, or The Secretary, Ramblers' Association, 1/5 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2XX, tel: 0171-582 6878.*

**THE ALEXIS - AFFORDABLE INDEPENDENCE**

The Alexis is an elegant and stylish electrically powered wheelchair with many sophisticated features. It is designed to suit the needs of individuals who wish to be independent.

- COMFORTABLE BACK AND NECK SUPPORT
- OUTSTANDING MANOEUVRABILITY
- VARIABLE RECLINING SEAT; AVAILABLE MANUALLY OR ELECTRICALLY
- MANUAL OR ELECTRICALLY ELEVATING FOOTRESTS ALSO AVAILABLE
- LOW CENTRE OF GRAVITY
- STABILITY AND STRENGTH

FOR INDEPENDENT INDIVIDUALS WHO EXPECT A POWERED WHEELCHAIR TO MEET ALL THEIR EXPECTATIONS GENEROUSLY

Designer Disabled Appliances Limited, Freepost WA1657, Widnes, Cheshire. WA8 6BR

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE: \_\_\_\_\_ TEL: \_\_\_\_\_

For full information on the ALEXIS and our new 2,000 sq ft showroom displaying products to independent living, please return this coupon FREEPOST to the above address, or alternatively, please telephone us on 0151 420 3547, or fax us on 0151 420 6107

DN 10/95

**Our premier powered wheelchair!**

**NEWTON** *Royale*

The 'Royale' is a new addition to the Newton range of powered wheelchairs. The compact and easily foldable design of the wheelchair is equally at home indoors and with 200mm castors, rear wheel traction and kerbclimber, outdoors. The Royale's high manoeuvrability, smooth comfortable ride and high specification sets a new standard in its class. Additional seating options are available to upgrade this wheelchair to even higher standards.

**Return the coupon below to Newton Products**  
**Garrett's Green Lane Birmingham B33 0SQ for further details:**

DN 10/95  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
**OR CALL THE SALES HOTLINE: 0121-785 0355/6**



# What's up doctor...

Ann Darnbrough DN, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

"Never once in all my long life has a doctor asked me if I would like a word with him/her in private. Sometimes I feel cross about it and it makes me feel less than adult...silly, I know."

No, no, no Molly, it's not silly. She was writing to me to describe her lifelong loneliness and how she wished she had had someone to talk to. She is severely disabled and has visited her doctor regularly, but never has there been any real communication between them.

While there are some doctors who are truly concerned with our peace of mind and consider it important to discuss with us the problems in our lives, they seem to be few and far between.

I was, therefore, particularly interested to see details of a report from the British Medical Association, produced at the end of July, which points to "major shortcomings" in medical education.

According to *The Guardian's* 2 August account of the report: "Most medical students graduating this summer will have received no tuition in a doctor's most basic skill – listening and talking to patients – despite the fact that the biggest cause of complaints against doctors is

poor communication."

It is good news that all medical schools are now reviewing their training, and that some are set to introduce radically different courses this autumn or next year.

For instance, at St Bartholomew's and Royal London Hospital's joint medical school a communication skills course is to be introduced.

Hooray, I say, though clearly it will be some time before those students get to practise their listening skills on you and me.

Now is the time for readers to let me know about their experiences (good and bad), because we need to press home the message that we expect more from our doctors than a quick diagnosis and prescription. By speaking up now, we may be able to improve matters.

In the meantime, it is shocking to learn that patients can be struck off their GP's list without any reason being given. DN investigated this problem in its January issue.

The Association of Community Health Councils estimates that in 1993 about 30,000 patients were struck off for making complaints or because their treatment was

too costly or time-consuming.

If that is still the case, it is really frightening for disabled people, given that they are likely to visit their doctor more often than non-disabled people and often need costly treatment.

Have other readers had problems with GPs quibbling over expense or do you have any fears of being struck off? If you have, you can talk to your local community health council (see your local telephone directory) whose job it is to look after the needs of NHS patients. But it would also be interesting to hear about your experience.

## Alive to animal tests

The question of animal rights, particularly animal experiments, is another issue that stirs up strong feelings. Andrew Blake of Seriously Ill for Medical Research (SIMR) responded to issues raised in April's column.

"The article aired the usual anti-vivisection misleading statements. I would like to correct one common misconception. In case anyone thinks I am just as wrong as the animal rights groups, then please do not believe me, but ask your own GP or medical consultant.

"The fact is that animals are used in the development and early testing stages and no drugs are ever released onto the general market without first going through three phases of

human patient clinical trials. So any side effects caused by drugs are the fault of clinical trials, not differences between humans and animals."

Barbara Davies, public relations manager of Understanding Animal Research in Medicine (RDS), writes. "I would like to reassure

methods and non-animal methods, is rather meaningless. Animal research is one method of carrying out medical research, accounting for perhaps 5 per cent of the total.

"Other methods include work on isolated chemicals, cells, tissues or organs, computer modelling, study of patients and populations. None of these can be regarded as a substitute for any other, or for animal research.

"Advances in science and technology have more potential in reducing the need for animal research and testing. Even so, I cannot foresee a time when we will no longer need to use animals. I would hope, however, that the numbers continue to fall as they have done for nearly 20 years."

## A UNIQUE SERVICE!



The *DN* telephone counsellor, Lin Berwick, is a psycho-therapeutic

counsellor and fully-accredited Methodist local preacher who can offer disabled people and their carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems. You can now talk to her on Monday evenings, 6pm-10pm and Thursday afternoons, 1pm-5pm. Her telephone number is (01708) 477582. *DN*'s helpline is sponsored by BT.

you that non-animal research and testing is used wherever possible. Before anyone can obtain a licence to use animals in any research project, they must show, among other things, that it is not possible to do the work any other way.

"I am not sure what you mean when you say 'there are now a number of alternatives to using animals'. I think the word 'alternatives', implying a free choice between animal

## Where are all the heroes?

Do you feel inspired by the actions and characters of others? I got to thinking about this when I read an article about the heroes and heroines of the 20th century.

My own favourite is Nelson Mandela who endured 27 years on Robben Island before being released to lead his nation towards reconciliation between the races.

So, where are all the disabled heroes and heroines who have fought and continue to fight for the rights of disabled people around the world?

We could start with the late Megan du Boisson who founded the Disablement Income Group starting the fight for a decent income for all disabled people in this country. Then there are all those disabled people who founded self-help groups and campaigning organisations.

Who would you nominate for a prize for outstanding achievement in advancing the cause of equal rights for disabled people? I am not saying prizes are available but, if pushed, I will make a donation from any millions I may win from the lottery!

Keep the letters rolling in about any problems you are experiencing or if you have found a way of overcoming them. Remember that I always reply to correspondents personally. I never identify readers by their real names unless I have permission.

Andrew Blake, SIMR, PO Box 504, Houghton Regis, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU5 5YW. Tel: (01582) 864596.

Barbara Davies, RDS, 58 Great Marlborough Street, London W1V 1DD. Tel: 0171-287 2818.

**DO YOU OR A MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY HAVE PROBLEMS WITH A SCHOOL, COLLEGE OR YOUR COUNCIL? ARE YOU GETTING THE EDUCATION, COMMUNITY CARE OR SERVICES YOU NEED?**

**David Ruebain is a disabled Solicitor specialising in Education, Community Care and Local Government Law. He is committed to the Disability Movement and is involved in the campaign for Civil Rights Legislation for Disabled People.**

**Legal Aid work undertaken.**

**For free initial advice, contact him at:-**  
**David Levene & Co. Solicitors,**  
**Ashley House,**  
**235-239 High Road,**  
**Wood Green,**  
**LONDON,**  
**N22 4HF**  
**TELEPHONE- 0181-881 7777.**



**MOTORABILITY FOR ALL  
PROBABLY THE BEST VALUE  
FOR MONEY AVAILABLE**  
**For detailed information or  
a no obligation test drive  
contact us at either address**

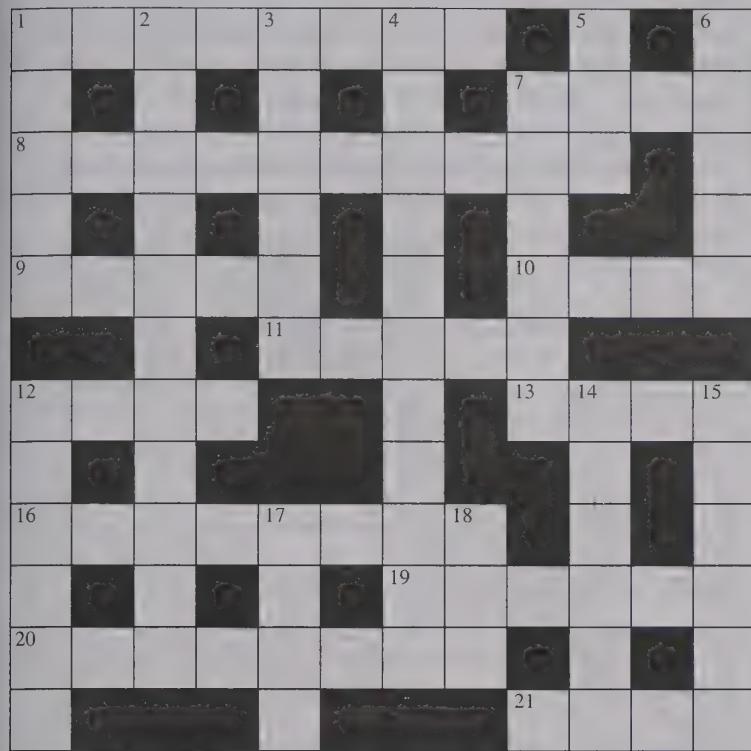


**UNIVERSAL MOBILITY LTD**  
**JORDANS, PARTRIDGE LANE**  
**RUSPER, SUSSEX, RH12 4RW**  
**Tel: 01293 871019 Fax: 01293 871007**  
**or**  
**UNIT G, ROYD MILL**  
**DYEHOUSE LANE, BRIGHOUSE**  
**WEST YORKS, HD6 1LL**  
**Tel: 01484 400795 Fax: 01484 400796**

# DN's crossword

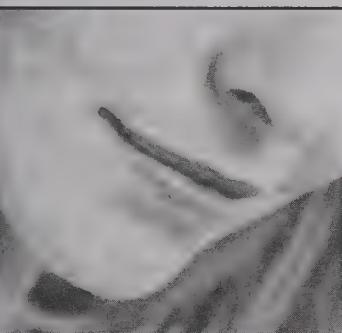
Answers on page 39

COMPILED BY REBECCA REYNOLDS



## Create-a-caption (and win £10!)

Yorkshire Water (YW) has been highly commended in BT's Countryside for All competition for improving access at its Tophill Low nature reserve. But what could judge Arthur Goldthorpe (far right) be saying to YW's Eric Gore-Browne (left) after a long, hot summer of water shortages? Answers to *DN* (address on page 2), by 9 October.



## Whose face is it anyway?

Answers on page 39



**We've got it taped**  
Did you know that *DN* is available on tape? Contact Helen Crow on 0171-383 4575 for more information.

### ACROSS

- Rids sets (anag)
- Not sciences (4)
- Disability charity (3,7)
- Approach obliquely (5)
- One thing (4)
- Type of candle or Catholic? (5)
- Pain (4)
- Hospital feeding appliance (4)
- Pert list (anag)
- Relating to main heart artery (6)
- Sin later (anag)
- Skim along (4)

### DOWN

- Telephone or watch parts (5)
- Someone lavish with money (11)
- Construction worker (6)
- Mare can last (anag)

### 5. Pot, maybe 11 (3)

- Stile (anag)
- Enclosing a circle (6)
- Rental (anag)
- Of the country (6)
- Wan (6)
- Weight (4)
- Signal of 1 across (1,1,1)

## Trivia questions

Answers on page 39

- Which ill-fated Manchester band recorded *Love will Tear us Apart* in 1980?
- What is the name of the small, independent state between France and Spain?
- What is the title of the new Walt Disney film about a native American princess?
- What comedian played Joe Mangel in *Neighbours*?
- Who was the last British Labour prime minister?
- With which sport do you associate Babe Ruth?
- The Hindu god Ganesha has the head of which animal?
- What language is spoken in Brazil?
- What does RAM stand for?
- What is borsht?

## Jokes

What's the laziest mountain in the world?

*Mount Ever-rest.*

Which vegetables go best with jacket potatoes?

*Button mushrooms.*

**Do you have a side-splitting joke to share? If so, send it to Alison at *DN*. Address on page 2.**



As easy as **123**

Constables unique Carchair system provides the ultimate freedom and independence for the wheelchair user. By adapting into either the passenger or drivers seat of a standard production car; the Carchair eliminates the need to purchase a special vehicle.

Comprising of a specially designed wheelchair and lift system the Carchair is extremely simple to operate.

To arrange a free demonstration of this, or any Constables product without obligation, please telephone or write.

CONSTABLES LTD • DEPT DN • FREEPOST (BR1032) • WESTHAM • PEVENSEY • EAST SUSSEX • BN24 5BR • TELEPHONE: (01323) 767574



**Constables**

## Info

The Everyday Diabetic Cookbook by Stella Bowling is launched on 9 October. It contains 200 tasty recipes for healthy, high-energy meals plus nutritional information. £10.99 from Grub Street, The Basement, 10 Chivalry Road, London SW11 1HT, tel: 0171-924 3966.



## THE INDEPENDENT EASIDRY BODY DRYER

...dry yourself  
with jets of  
warm air!

Reduce your dependence on others, and enjoy comfort and privacy, with the Easidry's unique drying experience.

- effortless and hygienic
- perfectly balanced heat
- safety tested
- affordable
- easily fitted



Go Independent House, 22 Stuart Road, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 4QS. Telephone: 0151 920 4627 • Fax: 0151 949 0490



The Go Independent Easidry reduces the need for towels, leaving you completely dry without rubbing or chaffing.

If you have problems drying yourself, the Go Independent Easidry offers the effective, hygienic and economical solution.

## HOW TO CHOOSE A POWERCHAIR OR SCOOTER

New, free booklet explains and guides, ensuring that you make the right decision

Considering buying a mobility vehicle in the next few months? Then you should know about a new, free advisory booklet which will undoubtedly help you to make the right decision.

The easy to read booklet contains all the answers you need to make sense of what can be a complicated affair. It tells you about all the different models available, how they work, what happens when they go wrong and the best way to go about buying a scooter or powerchair.

"The In's and Out's of buying a mobility vehicle" also arms you with a series

of questions that you will want to ask before you make your mind up, giving you all the information before you make the important choice.

Get all the facts. Produced by the Mobility Matters Network of mobility specialists "The In's and Out's of buying a mobility vehicle" is available now, free of charge. All you have to do is simply call our 24 Hour Booklet Request Line on 0990 134 130 or write to Mobility Matters, Dept DN10, Freepost NH0170, Kettering, NN14 6YA. A booklet will be sent to you within 14 days from one of the Mobility Matters local Distributors.

## What's on

Skill, the national bureau for students with disabilities, will be at ten careers fairs this autumn. They will be giving help and advice to students and graduates with disabilities looking for work. For more information tel/minicom: 0171-274 0565.

Usher in the Deaf Community Project Conference on 4 October at Aston University, Birmingham. Details from Francesca Bondy, Sense, 11-13 Clifton Terrace, Finsbury Park, London N4 3SR, tel: 0171-272 7774 or minicom: 0171-272 9648.

Disability Prejudice Reduction Workshop on 5 October in Leicester. Details from Sheila Coombes, NCBI England, PO Box 411, Leicester LE4 8ZY, tel: (01162) 60 3232.

The Disabled Explorer is a seminar for organisers of expeditions involving disabled people. At the Royal Geographical Society in London on 7 October. Details from Fay Hercod, tel: 0171-581 2057.

The Great British Swim, a country-wide event to raise money for The National Asthma Campaign, 9-15 October. For an information pack write to Lorna Smith, Great British Swim Organiser, National Asthma Campaign, Providence House, Providence Place, London N1 0NT.

Tuberous Sclerosis Association Multi-disciplinary Study Day on 12 October at Robinson College, Cambridge. £15 including lunch. Details from Mrs Janet Medcalf, Support Services Co-ordinator, Tuberous Sclerosis Association, Little Barnsley Farm, Catshill, Bromsgrove, Worcs B61 0NQ, tel: (01527) 871898.

From Inspiration to Reality Conference on 17 October in Sheffield will discuss opportunities for outdoor adventure for all young people. Details from The Foundation for Outdoor Adventure, PO Box 191, Coventry CV3 6YU, tel: (01203) 675575.

Policies Prevent Problems conference discussing principles of sexuality for disabled people on 17 October at The Glaxo Centre, in Liverpool. Details from SPOD, 286 Camden Road, London N7 0BJ, tel: 0171-607 8851.

Finding How to Answer Back, a seminar on self advocacy for young disabled people, on 18 October in London. Details from Zak or Sue at The Greater London Association for Disabled People, 336 Brixton Road, London SW9 7AA, tel/minicom: 0171-274 0107.

Quality Care Services, Illusion or Reality? conference 25-27 October at the Cavendish Hotel, Eastbourne. Annual conference of the Association for Residential Care. Details from Janet Hepburn, ARC Training Registrar, Fairways, The Hudnalls, St Briavels, Lydney, Gloucestershire GL15 6SQ, tel: (01594) 530220.

A Lifting Experience is an exhibition of lifts, hoists and riser chairs, on 26 October in Manchester. Details from The Disabled Living Centre, Redbank House, 4 St Chad's Street, Cheetham, Manchester M8 8QA, tel: 0161-832 3678.

The Silent Minority, a conference for professionals about the health and education of Asian children with disabilities on 27 October at The National Children's Bureau, 8 Wakley Street, London EC1. For more information tel: 0171-843 6041/2.

## Appointments

Aditus is a design practice whose personnel are experienced in designing for disabled clients.

Nursing Homes, Educational Facilities, access into and within Public Buildings, Domestic Adaptations etc.

ADITUS will help you do it the right way



ADITUS DESIGN CONSULTANTS  
Principal: Annette Hetherington BA (Hons) MCSD  
Acorn House, 74/94 Cherry Orchard Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 6BA  
Tel: (0181) 681 8339 Fax: (0181) 680 1996

## We've got it taped

Did you know that DN is available on tape? contact Helen Crow on 0171-383 4575 for more information.

## Check Scope's Christmas catalogue for DN's card

The new Christmas catalogue from Scope is free with this month's issue of *DN*. It's bursting with gifts, cards and wrapping paper that you can order from the comfort of your own home.

There is something for all the family including fabric building blocks and *Gladiators'* outfits for kids, a non-slip lap tray, a personalised stationery set and a selection of calenders.



CARDS & GIFTS CHRISTMAS 1995



**DN's Christmas tree card** is designed by disabled artist Averil Marshall from Cleveland.

The cards come in packs of ten for just £2.95. See page five of the catalogue. The order form is in the middle pages.



**Place your order today and you won't be disappointed!**

### For Sale

**RENAULT ESPACE GLS** 1990 G. Suitable for wheelchair user. Atlas conversion. Five seats. Silver and black trim. £7,000 ono. Tel: (01793) 850559.

**ORTHOPEDIC SINGLE ELECTRIC** bed, headboard and mattress. £550. Tel: (01283) 224260.

**EVERAIDS TURBO MARK 6**. Unused since 1991. Spare wheels. £500 for quick sale. Tel: (01799) 530784.

**STERLING EX3 SCOOTER** with charger. New June 1995. Hardly used. Was £2,500. Except £1,900. Tel: (01622) 45491.

**NISSAN VANETTE VERSA** 1.5. H reg. Very low mileage. One owner. Garage serviced. Rear access via ramps. 2 sunroofs. Flexible seating arrangement for 5-6 plus wheelchair. 23,000 miles. £4,900. Tel: (01923) 680259, Watford.

**GRORUD STAIRLIFT** with full 90 degree swivel chair. £750 ono. Tel: (01915) 267425.

**LIGHTWEIGHT WHEELCHAIR**. Good condition. 16in wide seat. Pink frame. £150. Tel: 0171-244 8198.

**LARK ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR** complete with battery charger as new. £850 ono. Portable nebulizer complete with compressor, £200 ono. Tel: (01253) 357485.

**LEVO STAND UP** up and travelling pow-

ered wheelchair with charger. 17 and a half inches between arm rests. £1,800. Could possibly deliver near Worcs. Tel: (01905) 356561.

**BATH SEAT/LIFT** plus accessories. Smooth, operation. Superior model. As new. Cost £800. Offers please. Tel: 0181-398 2010.

**ROHO FLOTATION CUSHION**. Relieves body weight. The best cushion available to prevent pressure sores. Also suitable for wheelchairs. Under guarantee. As new. Cost £325. Will accept £175. Tel: (01372) 468333 daytime.

**FORD ESCORT CHAIRMAN** E reg. Low mileage. Rear lowering suspension and ramp. Service history. £4,495. Tel: 0181-953 1238.

ered wheelchair with charger. 17 and a half inches between arm rests. £1,800. Could possibly deliver near Worcs. Tel: (01905) 356561.

**BATH SEAT/LIFT** plus accessories. Smooth, operation. Superior model. As new. Cost £800. Offers please. Tel: 0181-398 2010.

**ROHO FLOTATION CUSHION**. Relieves body weight. The best cushion available to prevent pressure sores. Also suitable for wheelchairs. Under guarantee. As new. Cost £325. Will accept £175. Tel: (01372) 468333 daytime.

**FORD ESCORT CHAIRMAN** E reg. Low mileage. Rear lowering suspension and ramp. Service history. £4,495. Tel: 0181-953 1238.

ered wheelchair with charger. 17 and a half inches between arm rests. £1,800. Could possibly deliver near Worcs. Tel: (01905) 356561.

**BATH SEAT/LIFT** plus accessories. Smooth, operation. Superior model. As new. Cost £800. Offers please. Tel: 0181-398 2010.

**ROHO FLOTATION CUSHION**. Relieves body weight. The best cushion available to prevent pressure sores. Also suitable for wheelchairs. Under guarantee. As new. Cost £325. Will accept £175. Tel: (01372) 468333 daytime.

**FORD ESCORT CHAIRMAN** E reg. Low mileage. Rear lowering suspension and ramp. Service history. £4,495. Tel: 0181-953 1238.

ered wheelchair with charger. 17 and a half inches between arm rests. £1,800. Could possibly deliver near Worcs. Tel: (01905) 356561.

**BATH SEAT/LIFT** plus accessories. Smooth, operation. Superior model. As new. Cost £800. Offers please. Tel: 0181-398 2010.

**ROHO FLOTATION CUSHION**. Relieves body weight. The best cushion available to prevent pressure sores. Also suitable for wheelchairs. Under guarantee. As new. Cost £325. Will accept £175. Tel: (01372) 468333 daytime.

**FORD ESCORT CHAIRMAN** E reg. Low mileage. Rear lowering suspension and ramp. Service history. £4,495. Tel: 0181-953 1238.

ered wheelchair with charger. 17 and a half inches between arm rests. £1,800. Could possibly deliver near Worcs. Tel: (01905) 356561.

**BATH SEAT/LIFT** plus accessories. Smooth, operation. Superior model. As new. Cost £800. Offers please. Tel: 0181-398 2010.

**ROHO FLOTATION CUSHION**. Relieves body weight. The best cushion available to prevent pressure sores. Also suitable for wheelchairs. Under guarantee. As new. Cost £325. Will accept £175. Tel: (01372) 468333 daytime.

**FORD ESCORT CHAIRMAN** E reg. Low mileage. Rear lowering suspension and ramp. Service history. £4,495. Tel: 0181-953 1238.

ered wheelchair with charger. 17 and a half inches between arm rests. £1,800. Could possibly deliver near Worcs. Tel: (01905) 356561.

**BATH SEAT/LIFT** plus accessories. Smooth, operation. Superior model. As new. Cost £800. Offers please. Tel: 0181-398 2010.

**ROHO FLOTATION CUSHION**. Relieves body weight. The best cushion available to prevent pressure sores. Also suitable for wheelchairs. Under guarantee. As new. Cost £325. Will accept £175. Tel: (01372) 468333 daytime.

**FORD ESCORT CHAIRMAN** E reg. Low mileage. Rear lowering suspension and ramp. Service history. £4,495. Tel: 0181-953 1238.

ered wheelchair with charger. 17 and a half inches between arm rests. £1,800. Could possibly deliver near Worcs. Tel: (01905) 356561.

**BATH SEAT/LIFT** plus accessories. Smooth, operation. Superior model. As new. Cost £800. Offers please. Tel: 0181-398 2010.

**ROHO FLOTATION CUSHION**. Relieves body weight. The best cushion available to prevent pressure sores. Also suitable for wheelchairs. Under guarantee. As new. Cost £325. Will accept £175. Tel: (01372) 468333 daytime.

**FORD ESCORT CHAIRMAN** E reg. Low mileage. Rear lowering suspension and ramp. Service history. £4,495. Tel: 0181-953 1238.

ered wheelchair with charger. 17 and a half inches between arm rests. £1,800. Could possibly deliver near Worcs. Tel: (01905) 356561.

**BATH SEAT/LIFT** plus accessories. Smooth, operation. Superior model. As new. Cost £800. Offers please. Tel: 0181-398 2010.

**ROHO FLOTATION CUSHION**. Relieves body weight. The best cushion available to prevent pressure sores. Also suitable for wheelchairs. Under guarantee. As new. Cost £325. Will accept £175. Tel: (01372) 468333 daytime.

**FORD ESCORT CHAIRMAN** E reg. Low mileage. Rear lowering suspension and ramp. Service history. £4,495. Tel: 0181-953 1238.

ered wheelchair with charger. 17 and a half inches between arm rests. £1,800. Could possibly deliver near Worcs. Tel: (01905) 356561.

**BATH SEAT/LIFT** plus accessories. Smooth, operation. Superior model. As new. Cost £800. Offers please. Tel: 0181-398 2010.

**ROHO FLOTATION CUSHION**. Relieves body weight. The best cushion available to prevent pressure sores. Also suitable for wheelchairs. Under guarantee. As new. Cost £325. Will accept £175. Tel: (01372) 468333 daytime.

**FORD ESCORT CHAIRMAN** E reg. Low mileage. Rear lowering suspension and ramp. Service history. £4,495. Tel: 0181-953 1238.

ered wheelchair with charger. 17 and a half inches between arm rests. £1,800. Could possibly deliver near Worcs. Tel: (01905) 356561.

**BATH SEAT/LIFT** plus accessories. Smooth, operation. Superior model. As new. Cost £800. Offers please. Tel: 0181-398 2010.

**ROHO FLOTATION CUSHION**. Relieves body weight. The best cushion available to prevent pressure sores. Also suitable for wheelchairs. Under guarantee. As new. Cost £325. Will accept £175. Tel: (01372) 468333 daytime.

**FORD ESCORT CHAIRMAN** E reg. Low mileage. Rear lowering suspension and ramp. Service history. £4,495. Tel: 0181-953 1238.

ered wheelchair with charger. 17 and a half inches between arm rests. £1,800. Could possibly deliver near Worcs. Tel: (01905) 356561.

**BATH SEAT/LIFT** plus accessories. Smooth, operation. Superior model. As new. Cost £800. Offers please. Tel: 0181-398 2010.

**ROHO FLOTATION CUSHION**. Relieves body weight. The best cushion available to prevent pressure sores. Also suitable for wheelchairs. Under guarantee. As new. Cost £325. Will accept £175. Tel: (01372) 468333 daytime.

**FORD ESCORT CHAIRMAN** E reg. Low mileage. Rear lowering suspension and ramp. Service history. £4,495. Tel: 0181-953 1238.

ered wheelchair with charger. 17 and a half inches between arm rests. £1,800. Could possibly deliver near Worcs. Tel: (01905) 356561.

**BATH SEAT/LIFT** plus accessories. Smooth, operation. Superior model. As new. Cost £800. Offers please. Tel: 0181-398 2010.

**ROHO FLOTATION CUSHION**. Relieves body weight. The best cushion available to prevent pressure sores. Also suitable for wheelchairs. Under guarantee. As new. Cost £325. Will accept £175. Tel: (01372) 468333 daytime.

**FORD ESCORT CHAIRMAN** E reg. Low mileage. Rear lowering suspension and ramp. Service history. £4,495. Tel: 0181-953 1238.

ered wheelchair with charger. 17 and a half inches between arm rests. £1,800. Could possibly deliver near Worcs. Tel: (01905) 356561.

**BATH SEAT/LIFT** plus accessories. Smooth, operation. Superior model. As new. Cost £800. Offers please. Tel: 0181-398 2010.

**ROHO FLOTATION CUSHION**. Relieves body weight. The best cushion available to prevent pressure sores. Also suitable for wheelchairs. Under guarantee. As new. Cost £325. Will accept £175. Tel: (01372) 468333 daytime.

**FORD ESCORT CHAIRMAN** E reg. Low mileage. Rear lowering suspension and ramp. Service history. £4,495. Tel: 0181-953 1238.

ered wheelchair with charger. 17 and a half inches between arm rests. £1,800. Could possibly deliver near Worcs. Tel: (01905) 356561.

**BATH SEAT/LIFT** plus accessories. Smooth, operation. Superior model. As new. Cost £800. Offers please. Tel: 0181-398 2010.

**ROHO FLOTATION CUSHION**. Relieves body weight. The best cushion available to prevent pressure sores. Also suitable for wheelchairs. Under guarantee. As new. Cost £325. Will accept £175. Tel: (01372) 468333 daytime.

**FORD ESCORT CHAIRMAN** E reg. Low mileage. Rear lowering suspension and ramp. Service history. £4,495. Tel: 0181-953 1238.

ered wheelchair with charger. 17 and a half inches between arm rests. £1,800. Could possibly deliver near Worcs. Tel: (01905) 356561.

**BATH SEAT/LIFT** plus accessories. Smooth, operation. Superior model. As new. Cost £800. Offers please. Tel: 0181-398 2010.

**ROHO FLOTATION CUSHION**. Relieves body weight. The best cushion available to prevent pressure sores. Also suitable for wheelchairs. Under guarantee. As new. Cost £325. Will accept £175. Tel: (01372) 468333 daytime.

**FORD ESCORT CHAIRMAN** E reg. Low mileage. Rear lowering suspension and ramp. Service history. £4,495. Tel: 0181-953 1238.

ered wheelchair with charger. 17 and a half inches between arm rests. £1,800. Could possibly deliver near Worcs. Tel: (01905) 356561.

**BATH SEAT/LIFT** plus accessories. Smooth, operation. Superior model. As new. Cost £800. Offers please. Tel: 0181-398 2010.

**ROHO FLOTATION CUSHION**. Relieves body weight. The best cushion available to prevent pressure sores. Also suitable for wheelchairs. Under guarantee. As new. Cost £325. Will accept £175. Tel: (01372) 468333 daytime.

**FORD ESCORT CHAIRMAN** E reg. Low mileage. Rear lowering suspension and ramp. Service history. £4,495. Tel: 0181-953 1238.

ered wheelchair with charger. 17 and a half inches between arm rests. £1,800. Could possibly deliver near Worcs. Tel: (01905) 356561.

**BATH SEAT/LIFT** plus accessories. Smooth, operation. Superior model. As new. Cost £800. Offers please. Tel: 0181-398 2010.

**ROHO FLOTATION CUSHION**. Relieves body weight. The best cushion available to prevent pressure sores. Also suitable for wheelchairs. Under guarantee. As new. Cost £325. Will accept £175. Tel: (01372) 468333 daytime.

**FORD ESCORT CHAIRMAN** E reg. Low mileage. Rear lowering suspension and ramp. Service history. £4,495. Tel: 0181-953 1238.

ered wheelchair with charger. 17 and a half inches between arm rests. £1,800. Could possibly deliver near Worcs. Tel: (01905) 356561.

**BATH SEAT/LIFT** plus accessories. Smooth, operation. Superior model. As new. Cost £800. Offers please. Tel: 0181-398 2010.

**ROHO FLOTATION CUSHION**. Relieves body weight. The best cushion available to prevent pressure sores. Also suitable for wheelchairs. Under guarantee. As new. Cost £325. Will accept £175. Tel: (01372) 468333 daytime.

**FORD ESCORT CHAIRMAN** E reg. Low mileage. Rear lowering suspension and ramp. Service history. £4,495. Tel: 0181-953 1238.

ered wheelchair with charger. 17 and a half inches between arm rests. £1,8



## For sale



For a fast and efficient service call free 0500 340611 anytime.

Free puncture proofing on all machines.

## Special Safety Bed and Cots

Custom made for individual older children/adults. Any Length, Depth inside. Width or Height. Removable or drop side. Mattresses to fit, (bumpers to fit if needed). Finished to a high standard in beautiful Canadian pine. Very strong. For information pack and free quote, tel: 01993 842885

## HOISTS

For lifting wheelchairs, scooters and people into cars... WE HAVE THE ANSWER Ring 01629-813493 for brochure or free demo

Autolift Ltd Millford Lane Bakewell DE4 1DX

## Services

## Keith Sumner Building Services

Specialising in • Alterations & adaptations for disabled people • All and any structural alterations. For more information or a free quotation call 0161 794 4208.

Disabled accountant works from home and prepares accounts for self-employed people and small businesses for taxation purposes. Can obtain tax rebates if applicable. Fees reasonable. Consultations are free. Tel: 01279 415 664.

## ARE YOU STUCK UP?

We've got what you want. A full range of stickers and signs specially for disabled people. Call us now. TELEPHONE: 0275 842322 or write: GPSP, PO BOX 25, PORTISHEAD, AVON, BS20 9LG.

JIM DORAN HAND CONTROLS 2 Parbrook Close, Coventry CV4 9XB Tel: (01203) 460833 Specialists in car conversions including tiller steering for the physically handicapped. Contact us whether a driver or passenger to see if we can assist

## access for

## disabled people

All Clear Designs makes buildings accessible:

- design
- construction
- training
- galleries
- housing
- offices
- theatres
- museums

'Access audits' and Lottery applications a speciality.

All Clear Designs Limited, 3rd Floor, Cooper House, 2 Michael Road, London SW6 2ER tel 0171 384 2950 fax 384 2951

## WHEELCHAIR WAREHOUSE

## FOR ALL YOUR CHAIR NEEDS:

Power, Manual, Lightweight, New, Used, All Sizes and suitable for all Ages. Also Stairlifts, car conversions and many other products. Advice from Professional Disabled People always available.



GBL Wheelchair Services Ltd

Brentford, Tel: 0181 569 8955 Fax: 0181 560 5380  
Littlehampton, Tel: 01903 733528 Fax: 01903 733530



OAK  
MOBILITY  
MANUFACTURERS OF  
POWERCHAIRS  
SCOOTERS  
ADAPTED VEHICLES

WHEELCHAIRS POWER/MANUAL - SCOOTERS  
4/6/8 MPH DAILY LIVING AIDS  
**WE CARE FOR YOUR  
EVERY NEED!**

- ALL LEADING BRANDS AVAILABLE NEW AND SECOND HAND
- HOME DEMONSTRATIONS AVAILABLE

• FREE CATALOGUE • FREE COURTESY VEHICLE TO OUR SHOWROOM NEAR YOU

SALES - LONG/SHORT HIRE - REPAIRS - SERVICE

Oak House  
East Common Lane, Scunthorpe  
Tel: 01724 852307  
Ask for Pat

102-105 St Nicholas Road  
Great Yarmouth  
Tel: 01493 330455  
Ask for Sheila

25 Seaview Street  
Cleethorpes DN35 8EU  
Tel: 01472 200142  
Ask for Stephen

70 Castleton Boulevard  
Skegness PE25 2TS  
Tel: 01754 761841  
Ask for Paul

1 Lorne Road  
Northampton NN1 3RN  
Tel: 01604 674409  
Ask for Sharon

121/123 Connaught Ave  
Frinton, Essex  
Tel: 01255 674409  
Ask for Richard

**FREEPHONE - 0800 626810**

Sunrise H & E (E & J) booster lark rascal

## Adam Price Accessible Vehicles

SPECIALIST SUPPLIER OF USED WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES

Access conversions to your existing vehicle

Passenger use conversions (windows trim and seating) to used vans.

We sell and buy used vehicles.

Tel: Office (01202) 814112, Mobile (0374) 899687.

## Stairlifts

New and reconditioned for sale.

All with a warranty. Renting available.

**Tel: 01455 840919**

Good prices paid for used stairlifts.

## The Lynx Hand Control

The ONLY control that transfers from car to car. Fits in 5 minutes - removal takes seconds.

Your driving freedom will cost less than you think: For more details call: Lynx Hand Controls Ltd., on 01695 573816.

HIRE WITH EUROPACAR  
WITH LYNX HAND CONTROLS

## Neatwork CYCLE FOR HEALTH &amp; FUN

Best range of special needs cycling equipment

**CALL NOW** for information or demonstration.

DEALERS NATIONALLY  
Neatwork, PO Box 2,  
Coldstream, Berwickshire,  
Scotland, TD12 4NW

## NIAGARA MASSAGE PADS, hand units.

Adjustable massage beds, reclining massage chairs, nearly new, half price, reconditioned, year warranty, guaranteed first class goods. Part exchanges, repairs, COD, Access, Visa accepted. Tel: (01460) 61157.

## Holidays

## EVERYTHING IS WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE AT BLAGDON FARM COUNTRY HOLIDAYS DEVON

New, luxury bungalows, overlooking 2.5 acre lake and set in 38 acres of picturesquely countryside. Nature trail, adventure playground, pet's corner and large games room. For brochure contact Pauline & Tony Blight, Ashwater, Beaworthy, DEVON EX21 5DF. Phone 01409 211509. Fax: 01409 211510.

## Motor Insurance

## The "Access" Policy

A unique contract specially designed for owners of vehicles converted to carry wheelchair passengers.

Substantial premium savings - up to 30% possible.

For a quote please contact  
CHARD INSURANCE  
SERVICES (REGISTERED  
BROKERS), 15 HOLYROOD  
STREET, CHARD TA20 2AH.  
01460 61373/62148

More holiday ads on page 39

## POWERCHAIRS

## (MOBILITY CONSULTANTS)



Nearly new, hardly used Electric Wheelchairs, Scooters, Batricars. All models wanted and for sale.

The right one to suit your individual problem.

FREE ADVICE, DELIVERY, COLLECTION.  
ALL AREAS COVERED.

Fully Guaranteed

Ring Mr Gibbons free on

**0500 357 4965**

or 0121-357 4965 anytime

All major credit cards accepted



## CITY MOTOR SERVICES (CARDIFF)

## VEHICLE ADAPTATION

## SPECIALIST

Conversion from hand controls to electric clutches for Petrol and Diesel

Ramp, Hoist, Lift, Seat, etc.

Supplied and Fitted

For further information on the above or other services tel

**01222 482804**

## DOLPHIN Stairlifts

- Free personal survey (no obligation)
- New or reconditioned stairlifts
- Servicing and maintenance
- Unwanted stairlifts purchased
- Branches nationwide

Telephone:  
0181-861 2370  
or (01276) 23119  
for nearest branch

We are approved agents for:



VW Transporter J reg auto 2 w/ch (Devon conversion) plus seats. Side entry. MOT. TAX. £7,000 ono.  
Chairman Escort F reg 1 w/ch (Gowrds conversion). Rear entry ramp. MOT. TAX. £5,000 ono.  
Tel: 0181-547 6725. Charity

## EPC EQUIPMENT FOR THE PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

Specialising in:  
Lightweight, Rigid & Folding Wheelchairs

- Expert Advice by Wheelchair Professionals
- Home Demonstrations
- Repairs, Servicing, Spares
- Wheelchair Insurance
- Authorised dealers for Quickie, Shadow, Top End, Action, Swede

Phone for a Brochure or Further Information:  
EPC Head Office Tel/Fax: 01252 547939  
EPC Regional Office Tel/Fax: 01203 422327  
A company run by the disabled - for the disabled!

## Recruitment

Scope (formerly the Spastics Society) is the UK's largest charity working with disabled people. We exist to enable men, women and children with cerebral palsy and associated disabilities to claim their rights, lead full and rewarding lives and play a full part in society

As part of a strategy to reach more people with cerebral palsy, we have embarked upon a series of service initiatives which were heralded by our relaunch as Scope in November 1994.

To ensure that we are financially able to achieve our commitment to reaching more people with cerebral palsy, Scope plans to increase the value of the financial support provided by its most generous supporters and to recruit new supporters capable of giving significant financial support. This has created the following opportunity.

## Database Marketing &amp; Information Officer

**£10,289-£11,044 +ILW**

Reporting to the Senior Direct Marketing Manager you will support our plans for growth by providing an information and data management function, you will also be responsible for the day to day maintenance of our Novell network.

You will have one to two years work experience and be familiar with the creation and manipulation of spreadsheets. A recognised IT qualification will be a distinct advantage. For a job description and application form contact: Geraldine Butler, Scope, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ, tel: 0171-636 5020. The selection process will include the presentation of a response to a case study.

Closing date for receipt of completed application forms: First post, 16th October 1995. Interviews 26th and 27th October. We welcome applications from people with disabilities. We are committed to equal opportunities.

SCOPE  
FOR PEOPLE WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

Charity No. 200231

More recruitment ads on page 38

## Personal



## In a Crisis

Helplessness • Anxiety • Longing  
Anger • Sadness • Hurt • Fear  
Despair  
Whatever you're going through,  
we'll go through it with you.  
Please Phone, Visit or Write

**The Samaritans**

0345 90 90 90

(Calls charged at local rate)

## Find-A-Friend

Anybody-Any Age-Anywhere Able-Bodied or Disabled  
Choose Your Own Ideal Relationship

## MUTUAL ESSENTIAL LINKS

1 Weir Street, Northwich, Cheshire, CW9 5HL

Tel/fax (24Hrs) UK 01606 49093 Overseas Int. + 44 + 1606 49093

0181-958 9657

36 Park Grove      Dates for the Disabled      Social contacts provided.  
Edgware      A better life      (All areas)  
Middlesex

## Handidate



It could be any of you and Handidate may have the power to help you find love

Phone: 01473 226950

## Handidate Dating Agency

The Wellington Centre  
52 Chevallier Street, Ipswich,  
Suffolk IP1 2PB

For Personal ads please send a cheque or postal order for £3 payable to *Disability Now* with your ad. This is to help cover our costs.

**MID-THIRTIES GRADUATE**, slightly disabled. Considerate, caring and tolerant. 5ft 10in tall, reasonably attractive, financially secure, enthusiastic, idealistic, warm, tactile and romantic. Would like to meet lady in need of relationship and close friendship. Any disability, nationality. 25 plus. Box No. 829

**17 YEAR OLD** male student from Ghana. Likes watching films, going out with friends, singing, exchanging pictures and postcards, listening to gospel music and reading the bible. Male and females of all ages can write to me. Box No. 830

**HELLO, I AM** a student with an enquiring mind, nervous in groups. I am a playwright and poet, 27 years old. I need a lady to share life's joys and frustrations. Box No. 831

**DEVON FEMALE, 29**, paraplegic, mobile, independent, intelligent, quiet but outgoing, seeks similar non smoking male with acquired disability for friendship and companionship, perhaps more, and to brighten up long boring weekends. Box No. 832

**I AM A 46-YEAR-OLD** London male and feel very alone and isolated. I would love to hear from a woman who feels like me for friendship and romance and whatever. Please write and let's meet. Box No. 833

To reply to a Personal indicate the Box Number and mark the envelope Private and Confidential. If you do not it will be opened. Send to *DN*, address on page 2.

## Recruitment cont.

## HARINGEY DISABILITIES CONSORTIUM

is looking for a

## DIRECTOR

**HDC**

We are an organisation uniting and giving a voice to individuals and groups of and for people with disabilities in Haringey.

We are looking for a disabled person to continue and expand our work in improving services in the borough and developing new initiatives.

Your job will be to:

- work with other voluntary bodies;
- liaise with service providers;
- support and motivate a committed staff team.

You should have an understanding of disability issues and be committed to promoting the interests of disabled people. You need experience of managing people and to understand the strategic issues confronting organisations like ourselves. You should be able to take advantage of funding opportunities open to us.

The post is 30 hours per week, salary PO3 £22,509-£24,390 inclusive, pro rata (hours under review – may be extended to 35 hours per week).

For information (including tape) please contact: Rena Allicock, HDC, 551b High Road, London N17 6SB, tel: 0181 801 5757. Closing date 27th October 1995.

HDC is striving to be an equal opportunities employer and positively encourages applications from disabled people from all sections of the community. Our premises are fully accessible.

This is a re-advertisement. Previous applicants need not re-apply.

## We're Absolutely Positive you'll want to join us.

Having a disability often has no bearing on your ability to carry out a job. And where it has, a little creative thinking in the provision of aids or adaptations can make a real difference.

At Barnardo's we're taking positive steps towards recruiting people with disabilities to the whole range of posts within our London Division. These include staff working directly with children and young people, Managers, Secretaries and Administrators.

We guarantee that Registered/Registerable disabled candidates who meet the short-listing criteria for any of our posts will be interviewed.

People who are not disabled will only be considered if it proves impossible to find a suitable person with a disability.

Watch out for our regular advertisements in *The Guardian*, *Community Care*, *The Voice*, *Care Weekly* and local press.

Your application will be warmly welcomed.

We're Absolutely Positive of that.



**Barnardos**  
Giving children a chance

Mac Keith Press, a small publishing house, funded by Scope, specialising in children's neurological illnesses, produces a monthly journal and a series of books to keep doctors worldwide informed about new developments in cerebral palsy and other neurological illnesses.

We are currently looking for two additional team members.

**Mac Keith Press**

### JOURNAL SUB-EDITOR

**£15,095 - £16,827 inclusive**

You will manage the editing of *Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology* from the receipt of manuscripts right through to camera-ready copy. You will be responsible for planning and meeting deadlines; managing freelance editors; and maintaining our high editorial standards. Our processes are based on QuarkXpress, and you will spend time editing on-screen. DTP skills, experience of editing on-screen, meticulous accuracy, ability to meet deadlines and plenty of initiative are important for this job. Some knowledge of medical terminology would be an advantage.

### EDITORIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

**£12,452 - £13,207**

**28 hours a week possible**

Using your exceptional aptitude for accuracy in written English and for creating and maintaining accurate records, you will provide full secretarial and administrative support for the editorial staff, maintaining office systems and making travel arrangements. You will also have contact with contributors, and do some work on material accepted for publication.

Good keyboard skills, audio typing, and plenty of initiative are important for this role. Some familiarity with medical terminology would be an advantage. For more information and an application form (no CVs please) for both positions please contact: Michael Pountney, Managing Editor, Mac Keith Press, 526-529 High Holborn House, 52-54 High Holborn, London WC1 6RL, telephone 0171 405 5355.

We operate a non-smoking policy and enjoy a quiet, central location.



Offering choice and opportunity  
to people with disabilities

## Freelance Researchers

### and Journalists

**Fees negotiable**

The Leonard Cheshire Foundation is expanding its programme of research into the needs and aspirations of its disabled clients and their carers, potential clients and other disabled people.

We are now looking for freelance researchers, journalists, photographers and illustrators. We would welcome CVs and examples of previous work, particularly from disabled applicants.

Areas of work will include:

Domiciliary care, Short-term or respite care, Day services, Independent and supported living, Volunteer initiatives

The Leonard Cheshire Foundation is a registered charity providing a range of high quality services for people with physical and learning disabilities, including domiciliary, respite and day services as well as independent and semi-independent housing schemes.

Please send a covering letter with your CV and examples of recent work to: Sara Cookson, Press and Public Relations Officer, Leonard Cheshire Foundation, Leonard Cheshire House, 26-29 Maunsell Street, London SW1P 2QN or telephone her on 0171 828 1822 ext. 243.

**Scope** (formerly **The Spastics Society**) is the UK's largest Charity working with disabled people. For over 40 years we have been providing help, advice and practical resources to people with cerebral palsy, their parents and carers. Scope offers the support people need to take control of their lives.

Following the introduction of Scope's new Research Policy and its supporting procedures and in the light of our current financial position, we have been carefully reviewing the way in which we administer our Research grants and disseminate information learned from research. We now need to build on current successes whilst refocusing the research team towards communicating and disseminating research findings and new thinking in areas related to cerebral palsy. A review of the current staffing arrangements has led to the creation of the new post of:

### Research Co-ordinator

**£12,932 to £14,664**

Responsible for the secretarial and administrative function within the Research department, you will use your organisational, communication, secretarial and research skills to assist the Research Manager to ensure that Scope, people with CP, their families and carers benefit from research findings. You will play a full part in disseminating information, organising conferences and meetings and processing grant applications.

You will be computer literate – word processing, database and spreadsheet, have committee work skills and the ability to carry out desk research and to forge links with external agencies.

For further details and an application form (no CVs please) write to: The Quality Assurance Division (Admin), Scope, 12 Park Crescent, London, W1N 4EQ. Fax: 0171 436 0931. Closing date: 12 October 1995.

*Working Towards Equality*

**SCOPE**  
FOR PEOPLE WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

**Deadlines for November issue: booking by 13 October, camera ready artwork/copy by 17 October.**

### TO ADVERTISE YOUR VACANCIES/ COURSES

please contact the Advertisement Manager, Richard Gresham, Kingslea Press Limited, 12 Dock Offices, Surrey Quays Road, London SE16 2XU. Tel: 0171-252 1362. Fax: 0171-237 8019.

### Situations wanted

**ARTIST/ART AND CRAFT TUTOR** seeks tutorial post in remunerative workshop or similar. Has experience of disability, learning difficulty and visual impairment as trained teacher. Tel: (01223) 570012.

**Disability Now** is not responsible for claims made in the advertisements it prints and all readers are advised to check claims with the advertisers before relying on them.

## Holidays cont.

**ORLANDO, FLORIDA.**  
DISABLED TRAVELLERS DON'T MISS THIS SPACIOUS, LUXURY, ADAPTED BUNGALOW. 3 DOUBLE BEDROOMS. 2 BATHROOMS (MANGAR BATHLIFT). CABLE TV. TELEPHONE. COUNTRY CLUB MEMBERSHIP. 10 MINS AIRPORT. 15 MINS DISNEY. MEET 'N' GREET SERVICE AVAILABLE. PARAPLEGIC OWNER. SUE FISHER, 5 PARK LANE, BROUGHTON PARK, Salford M7 4HT. TEL/FAX: 0161 792 3029.

**ALGARVE - PORTUGAL**  
Wheelchair friendly luxury villas in Portugal with swimming pools or small friendly hotel with adapted rooms. Sue Abbott, 123 Coppermill Road, Wraysbury, Staines, Middx. TW19 5NX. Tel: (01753) 685718.

**Llanelli, West Wales 1994 HOLIDAY CARE WINNER**  
3 cottages, all wheelchair accessible. Rural location and overlooked by 12th century castle. Ideally situated for exploring South and West Wales. Each cottage sleeps 4, central heating, CTV, games/fitness rooms, laundry, extensive grounds. Open all year, short breaks available. Tel: Catherine McLoughlin (01558) 823 059 for brochure.

**PENROSE BURDEN NORTH CORNWALL**  
"1992 Holiday Care Award Winners" Holiday Cottages designed for wheelchair users and their families. Rural setting with superb views. Dogs welcome. Wood burning stoves and daily meal service. Please ring or write for colour brochure. R&N Hall, Penrose Burden, St Beward, Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 4LZ. Telephone Bodmin (01208) 850277 or 850617.

**GLEBE FARM HOLIDAYS SELF CATERING COTTAGES FOR THE DISABLED**  
Glebe Farm, Charles Brayford Nr. Barnstaple, North Devon EX32 7PT Telephone: 0598 710241 Open all year. Wheelchair accessible. Equipment available. Tourist Board 4 keys and commended. Please contact: Valerie Boddington

**The Laurels, Devon**  
Enjoy a traditional, fun, Christmas and New Year's Eve. Room for the family and friends. Groups welcome. Tel: (01752) 830580.

**Ambleside - Lake District**  
Exclusive det bungalow and cottages. 5 min from lake and shops. Convenient to all areas of lakes. Tel: 015394 31733. From £200 per week

**Brittany Cottage** to let. Fully adapted for wheelchair use. Good access to beaches. Sleeps up to 6. Details C Hodgson. Tel: (01924) 454300.

**DRUMDELGIE HOUSE AND COTTAGES BY HUNTLY IN BEAUTIFUL GRAMPIAN.** SUPERB VIEWS OVER STRATHBogie ON BOTH CASTLE AND WHISKY TRAILS. ONE COTTAGE FULLY ADAPTED FOR WHEELCHAIR USE. SERVICED OR SELF-CATERING, EVE MEALS, LICENSED, SCOTTISH TOURIST BOARD 4 CROWN COMMENDED. BROCHURE (01466) 760368.

  
"Hacienda-el-Miguel" the Costa Blanca. Disabled Friendly Holiday Apartment for up to 6. 1996 prices frozen from 1995. Ring or write soon to avoid disappointment. **Mick Benford**, Holiben, 23 West Way, Kettering, NN15 7LE. Tel: (01536) 523591.

**Isle of Man Sunny Ramsey** self contained family house for 6. Ground floor suite for disabled person. Electric mobility aids. Relief carer available. Open all year. Tel: (01624) 812729 or 815956. Also other accommodation available

**Disability Now** is not responsible for claims made in the advertisements it prints and all readers are advised to check claims with the advertisers before relying on them.

## Recruitment cont.

THE ASSOCIATION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER. WE WELCOME APPLICATIONS FROM SUITABLY QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED PEOPLE, REGARDLESS OF RACE, GENDER, RELIGION, DISABILITY, AGE OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION.

The Association delivers housing services to over 6,000 homes through eight area and local offices in the South, the Midlands and the North West. We provide housing for a range of client groups, including people who are homeless or poorly housed, disabled people of all ages, retired people, families and others in housing need.

## Employment Opportunities at Raglan Housing Association

If you are interested in working for Raglan or in finding out more information about current or future vacancies please write to the Personnel Officer, Raglan Housing Association Limited, Wright House, 12-14 Castle Street, Poole, Dorset BH15 1BQ,

Alternatively, you will see our job advertisements placed in your local newspaper or in specialist journals such as Housing Association Weekly or Inside Housing.

We may not have any vacancies at present but will be happy to keep your details on file and contact you if and when the type of vacancy you are interested in arises.



**Raglan Housing Association**

We are committed to equality of opportunity in service delivery as well as employment practice. To achieve this we positively welcome applications from all sections of the community.

## PLANNING & TRANSPORT

### \* Road Safety Adviser

**£14,349 - £17,049 inclusive**

Are you looking for a satisfying and demanding job as part of a team in an education environment?

Have you two years experience of working in a classroom environment? We require a Road Safety Adviser to work mainly with Primary aged children and their teachers throughout the Borough to promote Road Safety Education within the framework of the National Curriculum. There will also be opportunities to work with groups of parents and health professionals responsible for the safety of young children.

You must be highly motivated and able to work in an organised way without supervision. You will need the confidence and commitment to promote road safety in schools and other organisations and work towards improving the attitudes of road users. Good presentation and communication skills are therefore essential.

You will need to have the use of a car, for which an allowance is paid, as regular travel around the Borough is necessary.

For details (no CVs please) telephone 0181 862 5132 (24 hour answer service) quoting reference PT/40/02. Closing date: 20th October 1995.

## LEISURE SERVICES

### Clerical Officer (Jobshare)

**£4,947 - £6,345 inclusive for 18 hours per week**

Are you looking for a job with variety? Do you like to be busy?

Is it part-time work you are looking for?

If so, look no further as we need you to provide clerical support within our busy Human Resources Section. You will cover a wide range of duties including assisting with our Recruitment campaigns, maintaining and updating our filing systems, computer data entry, and other general clerical duties. You will need to combine good organisation and communication skills with experience of using a computer database. The ability to maintain discretion on confidential matters is also essential.

Working afternoons only, your hours will be between 1.00pm - 5.00 pm Monday to Wednesday and 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm Thursday and Friday.

For details (no CVs please) telephone 0181 862 5604 (24 hour service) quoting reference LS/40/01. Alternatively, contact our minicom number on 0181 862 5919 quoting the aforementioned reference number. Closing date: 20th October 1995. Interviews will be held on 9th November 1995.

**TRIVIA QUIZ:** 1. Joy Division 2. Andorra 3. Pocahontas 4. Mark Little 5. Jim Callaghan 6. Baseball 7. An elephant 8. Portuguese 9. Random Access Memory 10. Beetroot soup

**WHOSE FACE IS IT ANYWAY** (from top):  
Brad Pitt, Jane Asher, Hugh Grant, Linda Bellingham

## Somerset County Council

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER



SECRETARY & SOLICITORS ENVIRONMENT MUSEUMS EDUCATION RECORDS

## INCREASING JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Somerset County Council is determined to employ more people with disabilities as this is seen as a key way to improve our services to members of the public with disabilities.

We regularly have vacancies of all types at all levels - office, craft and manual, professional. Examples of jobs currently being advertised are teachers, social workers, care workers, auditor, receptionist, finance officer, clerical assistant. Each year we have a few administrative training placements, specifically for people with disabilities, aimed at improving their opportunity to find employment.

All disabled applicants who meet the requirements for a post will be shortlisted, and offered the opportunity of an informal meeting prior to the interview.

We offer competitive rates of pay, good conditions of employment, including a job share scheme, flexible working arrangements, workplace nurseries, help and support in the workplace. We are working hard to improve accessibility to all our buildings for people with a disability.

If you would like to be put on our mailing list for a regular copy of the Authority's Vacancy Bulletin or would like to be considered for any of the positions listed above, contact Julian Bellew on Taunton (01823) 255595.



TRADING STANDARDS EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK SCIENTIFIC SERVICES FIRE SERVICE

## SOCIAL SERVICES

### \* Child & Family Centre Worker

**£11,265 - £14,349 inclusive**

(Qualification bar at £14,013 inclusive)  
NANTLY HOUSE CHILD AND FAMILY CENTRE

Nantly House is a multi cultural centre for young children and their families, many of whom have disabilities or are in crisis. We work with parents to overcome any difficulties they may be experiencing.

You will have detailed child development knowledge and experience of working with younger children and/or NNEB, NVQ or equivalent.

For details (no CVs please) telephone 0181 862 6037 (24 hour service) quoting reference SS/C/88. Closing date: 13th October 1995.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

### Welfare Benefits and Money Adviser

**£8,863 - £10,206 inclusive for 18 hours per week**

The Welfare Benefits and Money Advice Unit is a specialist advice service offering a limited casework service to people who have benefit and/or debt problems. The unit also provides a consultancy service to other advisers, runs training courses and campaigns and provides information on debt and benefit issues.

For details (no CVs please) telephone 0181 862 5624 (24 hour answer service) quoting reference CE/40/03. Environmental Services Department, 26 Glenhurst Road, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 9BX. Closing date: 20th October 1995.

**Applications are welcome from both disabled and non-disabled candidates. However, to improve employment opportunities for disabled people, first priority for these posts will be given to registered disabled applicants.**

London Borough of Hounslow, Civic Centre, Lampton Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 4DN.

Posts marked \* are open to Job Share.

We operate a "No Smoking" policy.

 **Hounslow**

An Equal Opportunity Employer

## CROSSWORD ANSWERS

**ACROSS:** 1. Distress 7. Arts 8. Age Concern 8. Sidle 10. Unit 11. Roman 12. Ache 13. Drip 16. Triplets 19. Aortal 20. Entrails 21. Scud **DOWN:** 1. Dials 2. Spendthrift 3. Roofer 4. Sacramental 5. Urn 6. Islet 7. Around 12. Antler 14. Rustic 15. Pallid 17. Load 18. SOS

# Brits face agony wait over Atlanta

Great Britain's soccer team for players with cerebral palsy still do not know if they will qualify for the Paralympics in Atlanta next year.

Britain grabbed bronze in the cerebral palsy European Soccer Championships in Nottingham in August.

The home team got off to a flying start in their group by beating Ireland 1-0, but lost their way against Portugal, suffering a 2-0 defeat.

A return match in the group play-offs saw Britain restore their pride by beating Portugal 2-1 to take third place.

The outcome of the Pan-American games in December will determine whether they make the journey to Atlanta.

The finalists, Russia and Holland came through from a group also featuring Spain and Belgium.

Having drawn 0-0 in their group match, neither of the finalists could find the back of the net in ordinary time.

But after extra time and a penalty shoot out, the Dutch stole a 4-2 victory.

Both Russia and Holland will qualify for Atlanta. Russian player Nikolai Khorenkov was awarded player of the tournament.

Meanwhile, Britain's men's Goalball team have also qualified. The British team, David

Clarke, Barrie Lane and Tony Reddish, won their pool in a tournament at Gravesend, without needing to go to a second round.

Britain beat Sweden 3-1 with Reddish grabbing a hat trick. Lane went one better to bag four in a 5-0 trouncing of the Japanese with Reddish getting the other.

However, Britain had to dig deep to avoid embarrassment against Slovakia.

At half time they were 3-1 down and badly in need of inspiration.

Reddish provided it with two goals to complete another hat trick.

"We had a few dodgy moments against Slovakia, but we closed up in the second half," said Clarke.

"It's a great achievement," said Reddish.

"Now we've got ten or so months of training and hopefully we can take it a stage further."

The other teams which qualified at Gravesend, were Germany, Hungary, Holland and Australia. They join those countries already qualified.

In the women's tournament Australia, Spain and Korea all qualified.

Britain's women came second from bottom and won't be making the trip to Atlanta.



Meaning business: Chantel Vandierendonck of the Netherlands  
HAN JANSEN/INTERNATIONAL WHEELCHAIR TENNIS FEDERATION

## Double dutch dynamite

Holland's women took the World Team Cup for wheelchair tennis for the ninth time in ten years in August, while the USA's men won their event, at Roermond in Holland.

The hotly-tipped Netherlands' team of Monique Kalkman and Chantal Vandierendonck saw off all challengers and won all their games in straight sets, beating France in the final.

As with the women's competition, the men's rounds consisted of two games each.

In the final, between the USA and France, Randy Snow of the USA beat Abde Naili 6-4, 6-1, and his team-mate, Steve Welch showed grit and determination in a hard-fought match

to beat Laurent Giammartini 7-6, 6-2.

They then went on to beat a French team of Abde and Yves Albespy in a thrilling three set clash in the doubles, winning 6-1, 5-7, 6-3.

The British men's team managed a creditable 6th place after being beaten by defending champions Australia 3-0 in the quarter-finals.

The British women did even better coming fourth after being beaten by the Netherlands in the semi-final.

**Sport is written by  
Rod Hermiston  
Tel: 0171-636 5020**

## Bowling for gold...

A bowler from Tiverton, Devon won gold at the International Paralympic Committee, World Bowls Championship, in a section for bowlers with cerebral palsy.

Michael Willavoys took first place in his class, at the championships in July in Aylesbury, beating the defending world champion on the way.

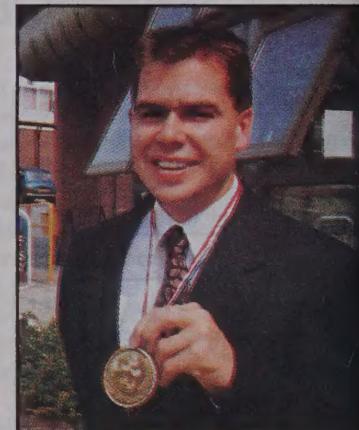
"Half-way through the competition I realised I had a chance of becoming world champion, but I still had to work hard for it," he said.

The win has earned him a place in next year's Paralympics.

"I'm really looking forward to it. I just need to do what I did at Aylesbury over there."

But, at the Second International Bowls Tournament for bowlers with cerebral palsy at Nottingham in August, Willavoys was the player everyone was gunning for.

In a competitive singles match, Les Aksink, of Manchester took the honours, beating him 19-17.



All bowled over: world champion Michael Willavoys

But Willavoys now had the bit between his teeth and went on to help England take first place in the pairs, triples and fours.

Other teams competing included Wales, Scotland and South Africa.

## Rower is best in the world

A British rower has become world champion after beating the defending champion.

Phil Griffin of Hemel Hempstead beat Australian, Michael Briggs by just half-a-second, in the 1,000 metres single sculls at the World Rowing Championships at Tampere, Finland in August.

British team mate and former silver medalist Geoff Spencer of High Wycombe, took bronze.

Griffin recently stormed to the top of British disabled rowing in the National Argonaut Disabled Rowing Meeting in July (DN September).



For your free colour brochure telephone (01794) 511555, or complete and return the coupon.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

## Fold up, and fold-A-way

The only colour co-ordinated pushchair for children with postural problems



One of the fold-A-ways main features is its unique folding system. The back is hinged to allow the seat to fold flat, thereby taking up minimum boot space. A gas spring mechanism on

the side of the buggy means the seat can be adjusted into a variety of seating positions to suit your child. All fold-A-way covers are detachable from the pushchair and fully machine washable.

**Tendercare**

Hampshire Medical Developments Limited.  
Appollo House, The Quadrangle,  
Abbey Park, Hampshire SO51 9AQ.